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BIRTHS.

On 28th October, at Shanghai, the wife of the Rev. ERNEST BOY, of a son.
On 2nd November, at Shanghai, the wife of D. WILLARD LYON, of a son.
On 2nd November, at Shanghai, the wife of C. E. SPARKE, of a daughter.
On 2nd November, at Shanghai, the wife of J. H. HINTON, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On 27th October, at Shanghai, ALBERT HARTMANN, to ILSA RAMKOFF.
On 28th October, at Shanghai, COLIN HENRY RUTHERFORD, to ELSIE, daughter of the late JAS. PRICE of Shanghai.
On 29th October, at Shanghai, GEORGE JAMES THOMAS, youngest son of the late EDWARD NEWMAN, of Chefoo, to DOROTHY JOSEPHINE, only daughter of the late F. F. CABOZZI, of Shanghai.
On 29th October, at Shanghai, GWENDOLYN THORBURN, to GEORGE FALCONER COLLYER.
On 31st October, at Shanghai, ARNOLD DAVIS LAMBERT, to MARGARET LILIAN TEESDALE.
On 7th November, at St. Joseph's Chapel, by the Rev. Father R. Kelly, uncle of the bride, assisted by Rev. Father Augustine, GREGORY PAUL JORDAN, M.D., C.M., M.B.C.S., to MARION JOSEPHINE ORMSBY-DALY, daughter of the late Joseph Ormsby, of Dublin.

DEATH.

At his residence, No. 14, St. Francis Yard, CHAN A TONG, Government Contractor, aged 59 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAIIS.

The German Mail arrived, per the ss. Preussen, on Wednesday, the 9th instant.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The last has been a busy week in Hongkong, interest chiefly centering in the contraband case at the Supreme Court, the fashionable wedding of the Medical Officer of Health, the King's Birthday celebrations, and the Interport cricket.

Several street accidents are recorded.

The Dalai Lama is reported to be at Peking.

The Governor has joined the local Chess Club.

Hongkong is to have a statue of Queen Alexandra.

The New Territory has contributed its first case of bubonic plague.

Death has removed a prominent Chinese contractor, Chan A Tong.

H.M.S. *Rinaldo* left Shanghai on November 3rd, homeward bound.

The C. B. granted to Mr. R. S. Gundry has pleased his friends in China.

The Hongkong Dairy Farm Co. is allotting new shares in lieu of dividend.

Messrs W. S. Bailey & Co. have launched another tug for Manila clients.

The Governor is being appealed to to stop the wholesale cutting of trees by the Afforestation Department.

The *Hogue*, cruiser, was to be commissioned at Devonport on the 27th October for service on the China Station.

Captain MacNamara, Royal Irish Rifles, will be appointed to the Chinese Regiment with effect from January next.

The Shanghai A.D.C. has scored a distinct triumph with "Old Heidelberg," which they have just played three times.

The Macao Government employees have had their wages improved all round, consequent on a more favourable rate of exchange.

Among the various moribund companies to be struck off the Hongkong register, many will regret the Ramie Fibre Co. Ltd.

Russia has managed to reach her third base. The next feature in her game will probably be a home-run, says the *Japan Advertiser*.

The King's Birthday set Hongkong ablaze with bunting. The Governor reviewed the troops on the Racecourse. It was a fine turnout.

The unfortunate Nagasaki Hotel has been sold, with its furniture, cellar stock, &c., for 106,000 yen (about £10,600.) It was in liquidation.

The principal item telegraphed to us from outside was the re-election of the American President. It was expected that President Roosevelt's term of office would be extended.

Kobe is following Shanghai's example, and arranging for an international walking match. No proposal has yet been made at Hongkong; but perhaps something might be done in chaira.

There has been nothing particularly new or interesting from the scene of war.

After meeting for nearly thirty-five years in a room at the City Hall, the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce has moved into new quarters, in one of the new "sky-scrappers" built on the Praya.

The way in which foreign trade is thwarted and hindered in the newly opened treaty ports may be gathered from the long article describing the difficulties of Mr. H. Bennertz at Changsha.

A judgment of the Hongkong Marine Magistrate puts it on record that sailors may refuse to sail into the war area unless they have signed on with a clear understanding of the dangers involved.

There is much talk in Soochow of the cutting off of the queues. The military officials are very glad of this change, but quite a number of literary men seem to think it is too sudden a change to be good.

Sir Hiram Wilkinson, Chief Judge for British Courts in China, sentenced a Sikh to death at Tientsin on October 24th. The charge was murder; the victim, another Sikh. The trial, as usual, lasted several days.

The action at the Hongkong Supreme Court, Osaka Shosen Kaisha *versus* the owners of the steamer *Prometheus*, raises questions of worldwide interest. We publish very full reports of the arguments offered from day to day.

A well-known Shanghai racing pony, Alverstone, belonging to the "Scandypat" stable, after doing a very good gallop on the 2nd inst., went back to his stable, and died from the rupture of a blood-vessel in the region of the heart.

The *American Asiatic* mentions that Wong Kim-yuen, a Chinese merchant resident at Quintaro, a town in Mexico, has refused to accept the office of Mayor of that place, although urged to do so by the principal residents of the town.

The Secretary of State for India has notified that candidates for admission to the Civil Service of India must have reached their 22nd birthday, instead of their 21st, as previously required, and the age limit is raised to 24 instead of 23.

A Canton dispatch to a northern paper reports that the Belgian Consul-General at Hongkong has despatched his Vice-Consul to Yunnanfu, the capital of Yunnan province, to establish a Consulate there, "to look after Belgian interests."

Notwithstanding the fact that shipments of Indian tea to date are eight millions ahead of last year, the *Times of Ceylon* is advised by wire from Calcutta that the total output will be millions short. This is most important news, and should send up prices. The *Times* heads the telegram "Good news from India."

A Hindoo holiday began on the 7th inst. There was some cracker firing, etc., especially at the offices of Mr. A. M. Essabhooy, Zetland Street. The premises were decorated with a profusion of Chinese lanterns and bunting. Apart from the men attached to the Indian regiments here there are many Hindoos at Hongkong.

THE CHINESE PREJUDICE.

(*Daily Press*, 8th November.)

Now that the native Press of Canton is simmering down, it may be more amenable to argument. Of course the murder of the Chinese compradore Ho Tsoi-yi at Shameen was a very shocking affair; but bad as it was, there was nothing in the incident to justify the glamour for revenge that the Cantonese scribes raised, even after the inquiry was over. For some of the remarks made, we should have had considerable sympathy, if they had been couched in a less incendiary fashion. There was, however, nothing excusable, nothing defensible, in the sly suggestions tending toward more lawlessness that the native editors were wicked enough to publish; and it was a most mistaken and highly reprehensible course to insinuate that the American officials could have discovered the culprits if they had wished to do so.

Very naturally, the Chinese were quick to raise the odorous comparison, and to point out the strong action usually taken when a foreigner is murdered by Chinese. They pictured for their readers how in such case the mandarins are bullied until they produce the culprit. They might have said scapegoat, without being far amiss; but for their immediate purpose, it was not necessary to remind their readers of any of the scandalous tricks resorted to so often to evade the justice of the "foreign devil." They said that in the case of murders by Chinese, the culprits were summarily executed. It has been so in some instances, but then, Chinese law and procedure is altogether responsible for that. Foreigners do not execute anybody—even Chinese—with deliberation and a fair trial. Moreover, so far as the failure to produce the American sailors who caused the Canton compradore's death is concerned, it is as a drop in the bucket to the number of Chinese criminals who ought to have been executed and are still at large, and who, in some cases, enjoy the favour of those in high places. Again, the Canton editor alludes to the fact that large indemnities have been paid. This must be admitted; but, on the other hand, it must also be admitted that they were rather large murders. When our Chinese friends go in for slaughter, they prefer to do business wholesale. In this Shameen case, the Americans are paying an indemnity; and there was no question of malice in the matter. Some sailors, apparently, got drunk, and while acting like drunken brutes, a fatal accident happened. That is really all it amounts to, although there is no desire to deny the stern debt owing by those responsible sailors if they could be identified. It is wrong to describe it as a deliberate murder, however. The further suggestion that on account of similar occurrences, in which foreigners were the complainants, large pieces of Chinese territory have been seized, is absurd. If the editors of our vernacular contemporaries do not know why China has had to yield ground to the foreigner, they are certainly not fit to be moulding public opinion in Canton. But they do know, probably, and it is no use attaching too much importance to their rabid denunciations, which have a much more ancient incentive than this recent regrettable incident. Where we ought to protest, perhaps, is in the cases of such foreign commentators as one who wrote from Canton to a contemporary that "these episodes leave a sediment of ineradicable hatred." That is not the way to put it. The hatred already there seems ineradicable, and such incidents may fan it into flame. In the present case, the incident has been made a

peg on which to hang the red rag of those bad feelings that seemingly spring eternal in the Chinese breast.

THE LAW OF CONTRABAND.

(*Daily Press*, 9th November.)

The interesting discussion which was proceeding at the Supreme Court yesterday and the day before draws attention to a subject upon which we have frequently made comment—the question of international law, and particularly a definition of contraband. Fortunately for his peace of mind, perhaps, SIR HENRY BERKELEY was not called upon to give a decision upon the broad issue; but upon three questions, the terms of which had been narrowed down to meet the exigencies of a charter party as between the Osaka Shosen Kaisha and the owners of the steamship *Prometheus*. Even then, the nut which His Lordship was asked to crack was sufficiently hard. The principal question, tersely put, was this: Was the particular cargo contraband according to the Russian definition, and if so, did the Russian definition bind neutrals? That latter clause should, it seems to us, have come first; and, certainly, upon its answer the crux of the case appears to depend. His Lordship made one remark about International Law—that no one Power could make it—which is in accordance with much that we have had to say in the past, and which has considerable bearing upon the issue of how far Russia's declarations as to contraband are binding, and how far they are *ultra vires*. Everybody knows the three classes into which contraband is by common consent divided, i.e., articles useful only for war, articles not useful for war, and articles *ancipitis usus*, which may, that is to say, be useful both in war and peace, such, e.g., as provisions, ships, horses, and the like. All the difficulties arise out of that third classification, and the authorities, both old and modern, have been unable to make any hard and fast rule. *Distinguendus erit belli status* they say; it depends upon the sort of war. Russia has declared provisions contraband; our Home Government has declared the contrary. If the decision depend upon the particular circumstances, as when an authority points out: "Sometimes things of the very smallest importance become all important, if the enemy be distressed by the lack of them, and unable otherwise to procure them," then the curious position seems to be established that what is contraband for one side is not for the other. For instance, while the Japanese could justly declare provisions for Port Arthur contraband, in face of the blockade and that fortress's dire need, Russia has not the same right to declare that neutrals carrying provisions to Japan are carrying contraband, for Japan is not in straits, nor can Russia be said to be blockading Japan. This view commends itself, at any rate, to our lay mind, although the lawyers would doubtless be prepared to argue it at much greater length.

It is not with such points, however, that we have any need to deal. We would confine our observations to the question of how far the Russian declarations are binding upon neutrals, as being the most important. As His Lordship has pointed out, and as it is quite easy to appreciate, a Russian pronouncement is not international law. How, then, can it be binding upon any neutral? A Russian officer has recently decided that any fishing boat that in the dark looks something like a torpedo-boat may be fired upon and sunk. Supposing Russia had supported this view officially,

how far would neutral trawlers have been bound by the official decision? Obviously, no more than the possible weakness of their own Government permitted them to be. If, as is possible, we have presented a false analogy, the reasoning may be discounted; but that is the light in which most ordinarily minded people will be inclined to view the matter, and the way they will answer the question. The cargo of provisions of a neutral ship is contraband, and the vessel confiscate, if its owner's Government permit Russia and her Prize Courts to act on that supposition, and not otherwise.

This equivocal position of affairs affords quite sufficient justification for our previously expressed contempt for international law as an institution. As a collection of intelligent opinions, the result of centuries of study by generations of great intellects, it is entitled to respect. As a world force, it is a dead letter. The deadlock in which the world now stands on this one question of contraband proves that. Russia, which promotes Hague love-feasts, and is ready to make any number of pie-crust promises, has by uttering declarations in defiance of the views of the majority demonstrated the ineffectualness of international law as if at present it stands. No international agreement as to principles has more than academic value so long as there is no international agreement as to penalties for breach. The essence of effectual law lies in its penalties, and in its power to enforce them. To-day it is open to any Power, entering upon a war, to reconsider any principle of international law, and to repudiate it. Our idea of practical politics would embrace, first, an international conference of jurists to codify international law; and second, an international agreement to enforce its provisions upon the potential minority that might wish to act in defiance thereof. This is big, but possible. The Hague Tribunal was as big, and it was constituted; but its decisions bind nobody. As we have seen, its participants may dissent from any of its conclusions. In such cases as that of Russia, there is no guarantee that, with circumstances to make it desirable, she would not at any time put forward her own interpretations to suit herself. With all the Powers, or the majority of them, pledged to enforce international law, there would be no dissident. Until that legal millennium arrives, the very phrase "international law" must sound tiresome to rational ears.

CHINA AND TIBET.

(*Daily Press*, 10th November.)

That Germany and Russia should each in its own way attempt to make political capital out of the recent treaty between Great Britain and Tibet is, of course, quite in the nature of things. That China should have sufficient strength of mind to reject their interference is the one satisfactory outcome of the affair. As a fact, though for sufficient reasons China is not mentioned in the British treaty, China has politically been the greatest gainer thereby. For the last ten or twelve years China had been rapidly losing ground in Tibet, and her Amban has found his hold on the Government of the Dalai Lama gradually slipping away. All along the Peking road right up to Batang Chinese influence has come to be persistently ignored, and the Chinese officers find petty obstacles thrown in the way of their free circulation, and every exertion, short of actual insurrection, made to frustrate their measures. Nominally the Amban at Lhasa has extensive control in the administration

of government. He is officially on a footing of perfect equality with the chief Tibetan officials, even the Dalai Lama himself; all questions of importance of whatever nature are supposed to be submitted to him for final approval. He has control over the finances and superintends the payment of the native troops: the frontier defences are in his hands, as well as all the relations of the government with peoples outside the borders. He has actually to inspect annually the different garrisons, and none of the higher officials, from the Dalai Lama downwards, can succeed to office without his formal approval. More especially is he charged with the control of Foreign Affairs as they exist in Tibet. The highest ministers of state may not communicate directly with any tribe or nation beyond the frontier. Should any foreign chief or Government address letters to the Dalai's ministers the latter are not authorised to reply, but must send the correspondence to the Amban, whose duty it is in concert with the Dalai to draw up the reply. It is evident that had these regulations been in full working order war between England and Tibet would have been impossible. In the first place there would have been no possibility for Russian intriguants to gain entrance to Lhassa without the direct permission of the Amban, and in the next place the difficulty would have centred at Peking instead of Lhassa. This decadence of power in the Amban is, however, not of recent growth; it had certainly proceeded far when TAO KWANG was on the throne; it had become almost a thing of naught during the reign of the feeble and debauched Hien Fung. The extinction of the last remains of feudal dependence in Formosa and Corea has afforded an object lesson to Tibet, so that it is little to be wondered at that it should seek to sever the last traces of dependence. It was under such circumstances that the Government of Tibet were ready to listen to the first overtures from outside which afforded any hope of relief. It was under such conditions that the British Government first sought to open up intercourse with Tibet. Not being anxious to interfere with Chinese suzerainty, it commenced negotiations at Peking, and the Chinese, not wishing to nip in the bud so promising an opportunity of recovering lost prestige, threw few or no obstacles in the way. When, however, the British attempted to put in practice the stipulations of the treaty another face of things was seen, and the Tibetans resolutely refused to permit communications to be opened. As the British Government showed no sign of compelling the opening, China, always ready to side with the more or less energetic party, openly supported Tibet. Finally a compromise was effected and a Chinese custom house was opened on the frontier; but Tibet was even more loth to submit to this action on the part of China than she would have been to deal with England direct. It was under these circumstances that the Tibetans put themselves in the hands of Russia, who to get a footing in Lhassa were willing to make all manner of promises of assistance in case of need. The Tibetans had yet to learn how little the promises were to be depended on, and there is no doubt that it was through depending on these promises that they declined on one pretext or another to meet the British envoy sent in accordance with their own promises. But although Great Britain could not afford to pass over the implied insult, the Power really most interested in the opening of Tibet was not England, but China, and the first effect of the war has been the re-establishment of

Chinese influence at Lhassa, where every care was taken by Colonel YOUNGHUSBAND to make the Amban thoroughly comprehend the true position of affairs. That the position was understood there is no reason to doubt on the part of not only the Amban but the higher Tibetan officials, and a curious testimony of this is afforded by the action of the Amban in immediately on the flight of the Dalai Lama appointing the Teshi Lampo to take the head of the executive. The Regent Galon Sri Rampochu quickly appreciated the position, and when he discovered that the British had no desire to injure the capital, and had given strict orders against plunder, his influence seems to have been exercised in the same direction. As a matter of fact the British Government, so far from desiring to lessen Chinese influence, was all the better pleased to be free of the responsibility of re-establishing order, and gladly concurred in the action of the Amban; and this in turn rendered the conclusion of the treaty all the more easy. The fact that in the absence of definite instructions from his Government the Amban refused to sign the treaty entered into by the Regent does not militate against this view of the case, but rather seems to indicate that everything was entered into after due deliberation, and that each one engaged thoroughly understood the position. That the Chinese Government itself refused, even after considerable pressure, to make any protest is also a sign that Peking has also seen the advantage to China of the situation. That she should demand that the affair should be thoroughly explained, and appoint a special representative to go to Lhassa, is quite in accordance with the wishes of the British Government itself. There has on the part of that Government, from first to last, been no attempt at concealment, but at the same time it is satisfactory to learn that as far as the stipulations of the treaty with the Tibetan authorities are concerned the British Government insists on their standing. They contain no stipulations antagonistic to Chinese interests, and from the fact that the suzerainty claimed by China is not expressly mentioned it is clear that as China had no representative with sufficient power to bind his Government, there was no possibility of treating with China direct. It is then doubly satisfactory to all concerned that the Chinese Government recognises the position that no interference is sought with its relations with Tibet, and that it is quite prepared to put those relations on a more regular footing than they have occupied for some time. Not less important for our future relations with China is the fact that its Government is able to take a clear purview of the position, and grasp the facts that our interests and theirs in many things, whereof this Tibetan difficulty is only one, are practically identical.

CHANG CHIH-TUNG AS BACKSLIDER.

(*Daily Press*, 11th November.)

Concerning the important question of currency reform in China, it is, and must continue for some time to be, doubtful whether the scheme for the establishment of a national coinage on a gold basis will be adopted by the Imperial Government at Peking. The EMPRESS DOWAGER is evidently in favour of the project, if report may be trusted. According to recent Peking advices, the Board of Revenue, in obedience to instructions from the Throne, began last year to collect and store up gold bars, &c., the intention being that, when a stock of at least one hundred thousand taels weight

of pure gold had been amassed a start with the new coinage should be made, the gold to be used for the purpose of minting gold coins, while silver tael pieces of standard value should also be struck. It is reported that the subject recently came up before the EMPRESS DOWAGER in the Grand Council, and Her Majesty commanded two of the Councillors to proceed to the treasure chambers of the Board of Revenue and ascertain what amount of gold bullion had so far been collected, whereupon a careful investigation revealed the fact that only 13,680 taels weight of gold had been received in the treasury. At this rate, it is needless to say, a good many years must elapse before the Imperial Government will be in a position to proceed with the new coinage. We can only hope that the collection of the precious metal may in future proceed at a greatly increased rate.

Meantime the veteran Viceroy CHANG CHIH-TUNG has followed up his criticisms of Sir ROBERT HART's now well-known recommendations on the subject of the reform of the currency by sending in a strongly worded memorial to the Throne against Professor JENKS' financial proposals for a gold standard for China, in which he declares that such a step would, instead of promoting commercial prosperity, cause financial disaster to the country. What grounds he gives for these statements we are not told, but probably the chief among them is the novelty of the project, and possibly the fear that the gold would be quickly drawn out of the Empire. It is to be hoped, however, that the Imperial Government will not listen to CHANG CHIH-TUNG. He is evidently both timid and prejudiced. Why should China any more than Japan be depleted of her gold because she chooses to place her currency on a gold basis? So far from disaster following the financial change in the land of the Rising Sun, the reverse has been the case. The pessimistic prophecies of evil so freely indulged in when Japan took her courage in both hands and freed herself from the constricting bonds of the silver metal have been entirely falsified, and Japanese trade, prosperous before, has increased largely since. We cannot doubt the same result would follow on the adoption of a gold standard by China. Even if some small loss did at first attend the change from a silver to a gold standard trade would speedily adjust itself to the altered circumstances, and in a short time, owing to the confidence that a fixed standard would soon beget in those engaged in trade, there would be a steady and continuous increase in both imports and exports to foreign countries. Fortunately CHANG CHIH-TUNG seems to be playing a practically lone hand on this question, and it is to be hoped that no mandarins of any influence will join in the outcry against gold, for the Chinese Government never boasts a strong back, and is readily induced, if not to abandon, then to defer introducing a measure of reform if confronted with any difficulties. Having regard to the heavy loss China is sustaining in the payment of indemnities and interest on loans through her depreciated silver, it is simply wonderful that the Government has not rushed this important reform during the current year. It is rather disappointing to find CHANG CHIH-TUNG, who has in his time tried many innovations, going back on the reform party in this matter. Possibly the limited success which has attended several of his schemes in the Lu-han provinces has powerfully influenced him in favour of a let-alone policy in relation to the currency. However that may be, we trust that his counsels will not prevail with the EMPRESS DOWAGER, but that

Her Majesty and her advisers will steadily proceed to urge the Board of Revenue to make definite preparations for placing the finances of the Empire on a stable basis, no matter at what cost of trouble or even of temporary expense it may be.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

7th November.

There is a filthy mosquito swamp at Caroline Road, just on the in-shore side of the Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company's premises. For the health of the district the green slimy bog-holes should be filled in. While talking of this subject, I might mention that watering coolies have prevented the water flowing freely at the Race Course trench, Happy Valley, just at the back of the Football Club's stand. They have done this, evidently, to save labour when watering the various cricket pitches.

A question of some interest is raised by the little speech of the Colonial Secretary on the third reading of the "Introduction of Imbeciles Bill." When Mr. Pollock represented the Chamber of Commerce in the Council he presented objections to the inclusion of Chinese imbeciles in the terms of the Bill, and Chinese imbeciles were consequently excluded. Mr. Shewan, a few weeks ago, expressed his disapproval of this, and when informed by the Governor that Chinese imbeciles were excluded at the request of the Chamber of Commerce, the hon. member, while not disputing the information (of which probably he had no previous knowledge), retorted that the fact of a request being made was not a sufficient reason for compliance therewith. Quite so; but the hon. member showed considerable temerity in making that remark in this particular connection. By direction of the Governor, the Colonial Secretary ascertained that the views of the Chamber of Commerce had not changed, and it comes to this: that the Hon. Robert Shewan is claiming a freedom to advocate views which are diametrically opposed to those entertained by the body whom he was elected to represent. What a pity it was that Mr. Shewan was not present last Thursday to express his views on this interesting point. The advantage in the bout lies with the Colonial Secretary.

I do not wish to be hypercritical, but I do not like the colours in which the new Cricket Pavilion is dressed. At any rate let the roof be a darker tint; either a nice chocolate or maroon brown or black. It would contrast better with the gay tone of the stuccoed walls.

In what manner, I should like to know, do the Peak Tramway Company's engineers propose to get down to Queen's Road? It would, of course, have been simple if the new Provost Prison had not been built and the Military Authorities would have granted a slice off the western boundary of the Murray Barracks, and by cutting down all the trees on the eastern side of Garden Road. But now it is more difficult, and the only way in which it seems possible to my unprofessional eye, is to run it on an overhead track something like the overhead railway at New York, only less demonstratively ugly. I remember seeing some time back illustrations of a street railway in Berlin where appearances had been consulted, and the result was not at all unpleasing. But, however the cars are to be brought down to Queen's Road, by all means let them come.

When the excellent Band of the German cruiser *Hansa* was permitted early in the year to play in the Public Gardens there was no mistaking the popular appreciation of this action on the part of the authorities, who for many years past had declined to permit Band playing in the Gardens because of the damage which experience had proved was done to the shrubs and flowers under cultivation. This has always seemed to me an absurdly inadequate reason for denying to the whole community the enjoyment of good music in an easily accessible as well as a most delightful location. Annoyances by hobbleshoys are easily to be prevented. Occasional performances by the military bands would be certain to attract scores

of residents who do not now visit the Gardens once a year, and this would result in a much keener and wider public appreciation of this charming spot, which, as the hill slopes are rapidly being covered with bricks and mortar, becomes of ever-increasing value to the Colony. The announcement that the Band of the Sherwood Foresters will play in the Gardens this afternoon from 3 to 5.30 is gratifying to the public, and I hope indicative of a resolve to permit Band performances in the Gardens at frequent intervals.

14th November.

One of the Knights of St. Andrew pleads with me to convey to the ladies attending the weekly practice dances a delicate hint that St. George's Hall is not the kirk, and consequently it will not be said that a woman dishonoureth her head if she leaves her hat in the cloak room. I wou'd not for worlds deny that ladies' hats are beautiful creations and lovely to gaze upon, but they are obviously not needed at a crowded dance, especially when the programme is one of reels and strathspeys. Ladies confess it, but what the tyrannical goddess of Fashion decrees her votaries dare not disobey. This was evidently not understood by the mere man who after extricating his eyebrows or mustaches from the brambles of a lady's hat last Thursday mildly remarked:—"Well, now, if ladies must cover their heads at a dance why in the name of all that's Terpsichorean don't they wear bonnets or sailor hats instead of sunshades?" You can imagine with what curiosity the ladies in that man's set looked him up and down. Wear bonnets or even sailor hats in 1904!—why the idea is preposterous of course. (Let me parenthetically make one remark to the men. It is this: *Sotto voce* swearing at the vagaries of feminine fashions, my dear fellows, is of no use at all. Being a lady the goddess of Fashion has to be wooed and won: you had better join in humble petition to the deity). I know not where the Goddess resides, but feel confident that this wail will come under her eye, and so I add the assurance that numerous petitioners will ever pray that she will hearken unto their complaint, and decree that henceforth it shall be lawful and correct for ladies to dance with heads uncovered even though they are not dressed décolleté.

It is a very common belief in Hongkong that the departmental authorities only do the right thing by mistake. One whose convictions in this regard are very firmly rooted writes wanting to know who arranged for the Band of the Sherwood Foresters to play in the Public Gardens last Monday at an hour when none but children and amahs could be present. I haven't the least idea, but willingly submit the question to whom it may concern. Until I learn what excuse there is to offer for appointing such an hour, I shall continue to share the general feeling that the performance must have been intended for amahs and children. Still, as I remarked last week, the fact of a Band being permitted to play in the Public Gardens at all is a welcome sign, and as gratitude is sometimes stated to be an anticipatory expression of thanks for favours to come, we ought to be grateful and content ourselves for the present with broadly hinting that from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. would be a more convenient hour for future Band performances in the Public Gardens. The further suggestion might be made that performances in the gardens need not necessarily be given on days when a military Band plays on the Parade Ground.

The honour conferred by His Majesty upon Mr. R. V. Gundry is a well deserved one. Mr. Gundry was one of the pioneers of progress in the Far East. Under his editorial supervision the Shanghai morning paper attained considerable influence, and its leading articles were perused with attention not only in the East, but in London, and it became a recognised authority on matters connected with China. As an author he also achieved some more than local fame, and his book "China and Her Neighbours" has been widely quoted. But his greatest success, perhaps, was as Hon. Secretary of the China Association. It is hardly too much to say that Mr. Gundry galvanised the Association into action, and made it a power with the Imperial Government. Its repre-

sentations, as formulated by his facile pen, acquired a new weight owing to their lucidity and force, and received an amount of attention at the Foreign Office never hitherto vouchsafed to an unofficial body. His retirement from the helm is still matter for regret. He was not only the Association's voice; he was also its brain and magazine of information.

I hear that the Cricket Club are to be allowed to extend the Cricket Ground over the pathway in Chater Road, which will increase it by ten feet all along its northern boundary. This work will be carried out next spring, at a small cost, and will be an appreciable gain to the very restricted area of the Cricket Ground. Would it not be practicable to afford it a similar or greater extension on the western boundary and reduce the broad road now running past the Law Courts to Chater Road into a path of similar dimensions to those on the eastern front of Queen's and Prince's Buildings? The road as a carriage way is not likely to be greatly used, and the Law Courts would gain in quietude, I fancy, if the thoroughfare were limited.

The construction of additional filter beds near the service reservoir above Bowen Road is causing some rather ugly disfigurements on the hill side. The gully above Union Church has been used for depositing a great quantity of the soil, which is banked up in terraces of yellow earth. I trust the P.W.D. will not fail to turf these embankments, or when the rains come there will be a great mess from it being washed down into the stone channels and choke them up. Another place for the débris has since been found, in the slip of unoccupied land between the tramway and the two houses adjoining the Club Germania. This has been cleared of its trees, and is being raised to the level of the surrounding ground. At present I cannot pronounce the transformation an improvement, but if properly laid out it may become so. But would it not have been better to present the excavated earth to the Naval Authorities for use in filling up their reclamations?

BANYAN.

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 4th November.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR T. SERCOMBE SMITH
(PUISNE JUDGE.)

CROWN RENT.

Five cases of failing to pay Crown rent came before Mr. Smith.

Mr. E. A. Bonnar, solicitor, appeared for the Crown. The defendants failed to put in an appearance. Judgment was given for the plaintiffs, with costs, as follows:

Chak Wo and another to pay \$8.97; Foong Choong, \$8.97; Chan Tsui Shi, \$8.21; Chan Fu, \$17.96; and Ng Fook, \$1.54.

OTHER ACTIONS.

Mr. E. J. Grist, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiffs in two actions:—Moot Singh v. Lam So and another, for \$90; Li Chong v. Pim Leung, for \$93.77.

The defendants did not appear. Judgment was given for plaintiffs with costs.

WATSON & CO.'S BILL.

J. A. Tarrant, Secretary of Messrs Watson & Co., sued B. Radcliff for \$152.15, on behalf of the firm. Judgment was given for the plaintiff with costs.

MONEY LENDER'S CLAIM.

Han Nam Singh proceeded against C. McCreary for \$240, being balance due on a promissory note for \$480. Mr. Otto Kong Sing, who appeared for the defendant, explained that defendant borrowed from the plaintiff the sum of \$30, for which he was charged \$180 interest. Payments were to be made monthly in instalments of \$40. After defendant had paid six instalments, amounting to \$240, he was compelled owing to illness in his family to cease paying. He asked for an order to be made for the payment of the balance by monthly instalments of \$20.

Judgment was given for the amount claimed to be paid in monthly instalments of \$30, with costs.

CLAIM FOR GOODS SOLD.

Sui Wo Cheung sued Wong Ching Muk for \$803.33, being balance due for goods sold and delivered. Mr. Bailey, solicitor, appeared for the plaintiffs. Defendants did not appear. Judgment was given for plaintiff with costs, and an order was made that the money should be paid out of the deposit paid into Court by defendants.

Monday, 7th November.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA v. OWNERS OF S.S. "PROMETHEUS."

This was an action brought by the Osaka Shosen Kaisha against the Owners of the Norwegian s.s. *Prometheus* in respect of alleged damage and loss sustained by them on account of the Captain's refusal to load provisions to be carried between Japan and Formosa, declaring them contraband of war.

Hon. E. H. Sharp, K.C., instructed by Mr. John Hastings (solicitor), appeared on behalf of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha; Mr. M. W. Slade (barrister), instructed by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson (solicitor), on behalf of the Owners of the s.s. *Prometheus*.

The matter was originally referred to Mr. E. A. Hewett (P. & O. Co.) for arbitration, and Mr. Hewett, as arbitrator, after hearing both sides of the case, said he required the Court's decision on three questions. His Lordship was asked to answer these; nothing more. They were:

Firstly—Whether, under the terms of Russia's declaration, the cargo intended for shipment from Yokohama and Kobe to Kagoshima, Okinawa, Keelung, Anping and Tokao by the *Prometheus* was contraband? If so, whether Russia's declaration in this respect is binding upon neutrals or whether as urged by Mr. Hastings it is *ultra vires*?

Secondly—Whether the line on which the Osaka Shosen Kaisha wished to employ the *Prometheus* is a "privileged" line, and if so, was it therefore unlawful for a neutral ship to engage in such a trade?

Thirdly—Whether, in view of all the evidence brought forward the Osaka Shosen Kaisha attempted to violate, or alter, the terms of the Charter Party as a whole, but particularly with reference to Clause 37, by instructing the Commander to load a cargo of foodstuffs, and timber, and to proceed to the ports named in their letter of the 27th April, 1904.

Article 37 reads as follows—In case of war, steamer not to be directed to any blockaded port nor to carry any contraband of war.

The Charter Party was signed in Hongkong on the 10th February last between Messrs. Sander, Wieler and Co. as agents for the captain and owners of the s.s. *Prometheus*, and Mr. T. Arima, manager in Hongkong of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha.

Among the conditions of the Charter Party were the following:

That the vessel be at the sole disposal of the Charterers, or their agents; to carry cargo and passengers for lawful voyages to certain ports of the world (open ports only), ports in the Amur district, ports north of Vladivostock, and interport trading in the Philippines being amongst those places excluded; the agreement not to be cancelled in the event of war being declared; the Charterers shall pay at the rate of \$6,750 per mensem for the use and hire of the steamer; disputes to be settled by arbitration.

Hon. E. H. Sharp said that the Japanese Government chartered some of the ships belonging to the Osaka Shosen Kaisha to be used as transports in connection with the present war. The Company chartered other ships, including the s.s. *Prometheus*, to take the place of their own steamer on the different runs. On the 9th February war broke out, subsequently to the Charter having been signed.

His Lordship to Mr. Slade—Do you admit that it was subsequent to the signing of the Charter?

Mr. Slade—No; we did not know.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—I have local newspapers of the 9th February showing that it was then known here.

After Hon. E. H. Sharp had quoted some of the clauses of the Charter Party, Mr. Slade admitted that the signing of the agreement was after the outbreak of war, but the agreement had been drawn up beforehand.

Hon. E. H. Sharp drew attention to another clause, added in writing, saying that should the steamer be required, in accordance with Japanese law, to undergo a marine survey the Charterers might have the ship surveyed at their own expense without any breach of the Charter. He also referred to the clause saying that in case of war the vessel was neither to be directed to any blockaded port, nor to carry contraband. An important point of discussion was the meaning of the word contraband as applied to the case. On the 19th February, before the vessel had been taken over to the Charterers, correspondence passed between the parties as to what was meant by open ports. The result was: both parties agreed that open ports included non-treaty ports so long as the Japanese Government kept them open. On the 22nd of February the Charter commenced—that was, the steamer was handed over. Next day (the 23rd February) she left Hongkong under the charter on her first voyage to Formosa, where she loaded rice to take to Yokohama and Kobe; that cargo was duly delivered. That brought them to the 20th March, when the ship was at Kobe, and loading for her second voyage—a voyage that was never made. It was intended that the vessel was to take a cargo of provisions from Kobe to Japanese coast ports, and Formosa. The Captain declined to take provisions, on the ground that they were contraband. The voyage had to be abandoned; the ship was sent to Hongkong and there sub-chartered to Chinese for other work.

His Lordship—What is the amount claimed?

Hon. E. H. Sharp—Your Lordship is only asked to settle certain points of law: not the amount of claim.

Continuing, Mr. Sharp said that the Captain's refusal frustrated the purposes of the Charter. In February certain regulations were published at St. Petersburg regarding contraband. The meaning of these regulations formed another question referred to by the Arbitrator. After the Captain's refusal, and the ship returned to Hongkong, arbitration was decided on. During the hearing, on the 20th September, a solicitor raised a fresh point, the third point referred to His Lordship. The exact meaning of contraband in the charter party was the point on which the action was founded. Were they, in arguing the case, to regard Russian declarations as to be abided by or was it International Law? He submitted that they could not be asked to abide by whatever Russia might state, but by what contraband meant in International Law. Were the Owners to regard as contraband everything that Russia might call contraband? He would ask His Lordship to consider what things were recognised as contraband by International Law. Commodities were divided into three classes: first, articles for war only, which were always contraband (arms, etc); second, supplies for peace only—pianos—not, as his friend was suggesting with guns inside (Laughter)—which are never contraband; and third, those articles for both peace and war. As far as the third class was concerned, such articles would only be contraband if intended for warlike purposes. The ship was not intended to carry things which might be considered for warlike purposes. The voyage was from Japan to Formosa; not Formosa to Japan; and the Captain was not asked to go to places described as Military or Naval centres. A contention of theirs was that the case should be considered from an English and American viewpoint as regards contraband.

Mr. Slade—It is a matter of how you interpret it.

His Lordship—No one country can make International Law, which, of course, is the Law of Nations.

Hon. E. H. Sharp said that was so. The Russians might declare everything contraband, and thus destroy neutral trade—make a "Paper Blockade," so to speak.

After referring at length to precedents, Hon. E. H. Sharp said that the Owners of the ship, or their agents, which was the same thing, seemed to have seen the difference of two terms: "contraband," as used in the Charter Party, and "What may be considered contraband," used in a subsequent letter dated the 23rd March. The position was: firstly, should Russian declarations be considered as they read—he contended they should, but his friend Mr. Slade would say they were ambiguous; secondly, if read as others said they were to be read they would be most ambiguous—in any case they must be construed in accordance with International Law; thirdly, assuming declarations clearly state provisions to be contraband irrespective of warlike purposes, such declarations would be invalid; fourthly, in any case, such declarations would be ineffectual till sustained by judgment at a prize court; fifthly, the judgment of the prize court was not conclusive if not in accordance with International Law, but was subject to diplomatic action. Neutrals have constantly and successfully refused to be bound by orders beyond International Law.

After a pause Hon. E. H. Sharp went on to the subject of "Interport and Formosan Trade." The owners contended that apart from contraband the ship could not be legally employed in a privileged trade.

His Lordship asked what was privileged trade. Did the Japanese make interport trade privileged for Japanese ships only; and in that case would neutral ships trading to these ports render themselves liable to be confiscated by Russia?

Hon. E. H. Sharp said that the contention of the other side was that it was unlawful, but he had several answers to make. He said it was a lawful voyage in a lawful trade. Within the meaning of the legal authorities it was not a privileged trade, it was lawful for neutral ships to engage in it. Formosa was a place anyone could trade at; some of the intermediate ports were closed unless provided with a permit which anyone could obtain.

Mr. Slade—He has never found out which ports were not open; the facts have not been found out.

His Lordship—The facts must be found. Hon. E. H. Sharp said he knew Kagoshima and Okinawa were not treaty ports; the other ports were treaty ports. All these ports, however, had been open for many years to foreigners. The position was peculiar.

Mr. Slade—The ports are either open or not open.

His Lordship—Is this a trade in which foreigners can engage?

Hon. E. H. Sharp—Mr. Hewett has found that they can if they choose. It is open to all foreigners who pay the fee.

Mr. Slade—That is not so.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—Vessels other than Japanese may not of recent years have traded to these ports, but foreign ships could if they chose to pay.

Mr. Slade—That is not so; they shall not trade there unless they have special permission.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—This permission is obtainable by anyone who pays the fee.

Mr. Slade—These special permits are only issued under very special circumstances.

His Lordship—As far as I can see the trade is not closed, but one must have a permit—not absolutely closed.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—The rule is obsolete; even assuming that it is in full force to-day, it would not cover the present case. It only applies when one of the belligerents throws open a port because they have been forced to by the other power.

His Lordship—It may be argued that they were obliged to because all their ships were employed at the war.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—Was the trade completely closed before the war, though?

His Lordship—No.

The case was adjourned.

The beachcombers of Nagasaki have been enlisted by a Japanese theatrical company to personate Russian soldiers for the princely salary of "twelve yen a month and all found." All they have to do is to look ferocious, sing any songs they like so long as they are loud, and be knocked about by the Japanese actors.

Tuesday, 8th November.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR HENRY S.
BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE.)OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA V. OWNERS OF S.S.
"PROMETHEUS."

This case was resumed.

The Hon. E. H. Sharp, K.C., counsel for the plaintiff, was instructed as before by Mr. J. Hastings, solicitor; and Mr. M. W. Slade, barrister, counsel for the defence, by Mr. C. D. Wilkinson, solicitor.

The Hon. E. H. Sharp, continuing his argument, said he would further discuss the Arbitrator's (Mr. E. A. Hewett) second question. The parties had originally agreed that the ship was to be used for the Japanese coast and inter-port trade. In point of fact such was the purpose of the charter, well known to the persons who entered into the contract. At the time the charter was signed both parties agreed that the ship was to be employed on the Japanese coasting interport trade: nor had this been contested by the defendant's agents at Hongkong.

Mr. Slade—It has not been denied by the agents of the steamer; it has never been asked.

Hon. E. H. Sharp said, His Lordship need not take any evidence on that point. The question was not asked because it was thought to be not worth denying.

Mr. Slade—The question was put before the Arbitrator, but Mr. Hastings objected.

Mr. Slade asked that if any reliance were to be put on this point the Arbitrator be asked if the question was ever put.

Hon. E. H. Sharp, continuing, said that before the ship was taken over by the two parties, in the first letter, dated the 19th February, the charterers notified the agents of the ship that they took non-Treaty ports to be open ports so long as the Japanese kept them open. The Japanese Government permitted foreign ships taken up by Japanese companies to use these ports; the Osaka Shosen Kaisha had the privilege. On the 20th February this letter was replied to. The Agents agreed that non-Treaty ports were open to foreign steamers so long as the Japanese Government kept them open. On the 11th March the charterers wrote to the agents of the ship: they said they had permission from the Japanese Government to send steamers to all ports on the Japanese coast. A reply was sent on the same day: the agents had no objections so long as the Japanese Government allowed it. He submitted that these letters were sent with a view to come to an understanding regarding the terms used in the Charter Party.

His Lordship said there was another point: did the parties determine what was lawful?

Hon. E. H. Sharp said he would come to that presently. Clause 36 of the Charter Party provided that should the steamer be required, in accordance with Japanese law, to undergo a marine survey the Charterers might have her surveyed at their own expense without any breach of the Charter. This clause relating to survey was inserted, of course, with a view to the ship being employed in the Japanese coast and interport trade. The clause was inserted in writing and if such had not been the intention it would not have been inserted.

Mr. Slade—If you refer to the law, my Lord, you will see that it does not agree with my friend's contention. The ship need not necessarily be in a non-Treaty port.

Hon. E. H. Sharp said that in the letter of the 19th February non-Treaty ports were expressly mentioned by both parties. As agents for the steamer, the actions of Messrs. Sander, Wieler & Co., regarding any charters, were binding—a view taken by the Arbitrator. Even supposing that this was not so, however, the owners in Norway subsequently rendered themselves liable when they sent a telegram to the captain of the steamer. There were two points: firstly, the agents must have had authority to enter into this contract; secondly, there was the telegram from the owners in which they told the Captain "Try cancel." The owners knew the nature of the charter, and they sent the telegram as a result of the Russian

declaration regarding contraband. And the question of treaty ports was quite an after-thought; it was raised for the first time before the Arbitrator. The ground of refusal to proceed with the ship was one of contraband. He did not know any previous case he could refer to on this point.

His Lordship—No, it is only a parallel to the servant question.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—Yes, my Lord, you can discharge a servant for a bad reason and get a good one afterwards. Was the captain the author of all these reasons?

His Lordship said it was very important to know what was in the minds of the parties at that time. Did they object to the non-treaty ports, or was it on account of contraband?

Mr. Sharp replied that even supposing trade was closed, and supposing the doctrine was in full force: even then it was not illegal to engage in this trade. Any contract legal as far as the Foreign Enlistment Act was concerned would be legal in all senses. In any case, it was no breach of International Law; or municipal law, for neutral ships to engage in a contraband trade. Such charters were agreements to take risk and the consequences in the event of being captured. All that the neutral Government said was "Do not look to us if you get caught." Such a contract, in fact, would not be illegal if the parties chose to enter into it. The neutral would contract to take the risk. The other question was: Were these ports closed before the time of war; were they opened on account of Russian naval successes in time of war? No, this trade was open before the war began; all the successes had been to the Japanese. He submitted that the voyage in question ought, by the terms of the contract, to have been performed. He asked that his Lordship answer the questions in favour of the charterers, and remit the case to the Arbitrator for the assessment of damages.

Mr. Slade rose to address His Lordship for the defence. He said that before proceeding with his arguments he would deal with the meaning of and effect of the Charter Party. He desired to remove certain obscurities as to the meaning of the Russian declaration regarding contraband. It was published in French. Rice and provisions were mentioned as contraband. *De même que* was to be translated as "as also," or "as well as"—not "such as," as his friend would have it.

His Lordship—That would be bad French.

Mr. Slade—No, My Lord, it would be very good French.

His Lordship—The French for "as well as" would be *tel que*.

Mr. Slade read the French declaration and translation as appearing in the Hongkong Government Gazette of the 9th March. It was:

"En général tous les objets destinés à la guerre sur mer ou sur la terre, de même que le riz, les vivres, et les chevaux, bêtes de somme, et autres pouvant servir dans un but de guerre et si elles sont transportées pour le compte ou à destination de l'ennemi."

"Generally, everything intended for warfare by sea or land, as well as rice, provisions, and, horses, beasts of burden and others which may be used for a warlike purpose, if they are transported on the account of or are destined for the enemy."

This point regarding translation was discussed at some length. Mr. Slade said that all articles were unconditionally contraband if destined for war—rice, horses, etc. All beasts of burden were contraband, but other beasts were only contraband if destined to the enemy. Such was the decision of the Russian Prize Court in the case of the American s.s. *Arabia*, brought to Vladivostock to be dealt with. Their instructions were to confiscate all food-stuffs as contraband.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—We have not got that judgment. It was decided before the Arbitrator not to refer to any casual case.

Mr. Slade read from the Hongkong Daily Press of 22nd ult. an extract from the formal protest made by the American Government against the Judgment of the Prize Court in the *Arabia* case.

Hon. E. H. Sharp objected on the ground that there was no evidence before them to show that the goods in question, railway material and

flour, were not destined for Japanese warlike purposes.

His Lordship said they were drifting from the point: the correct translation of *de même que*.

Mr. Slade said the meaning of the Russian declaration was that when they found neutrals employed in transporting certain goods for Japanese they would seize them. Whether they had a right to or not was another question.

His Lordship remarked that in each case they were to regard as invalid all things found invalid by the Russian Prize Court?

Mr. Slade—That is so.

Continuing, Mr. Slade said that the prize courts were the administrators of the law of the country; they were the authority. It was for the prize court to interpret International law as applied to the case of every vessel they were called to decide on. Whatever the belligerents declared to be contraband; whatever they declared, no matter how outrageous, bound all the world for the time being. What His Lordship had to decide in that case was the right construction of the Charter Party, having regard to the circumstances at the time the Charter Party was entered into. He must look at the Charter Party as a whole to apply the true meaning to it; not at a part of it only. That Charter Party as a whole was the charter of a Norwegian ship by Japanese for lawful voyages to certain parts of the world—practically the whole of Asia, excluding interport Philippine trading and ports north of Vladivostock—to open ports only. The Charter Party had a clause in it—the usual clause—regarding the avoidance of arrest and restraint by princes and rulers of people; and it was not to be cancelled in the event of war being declared. It was also agreed in the clauses that the responsibility fell on the Captain to sign bills of lading, though the Charterers were responsible for short delivery—that was, with the exception of valuable goods, treasure and opium, for which the Captain or Chief Officer should sign the bill of lading. The fact of the ship having to sign bills of lading gave him the control and responsibility of the ship, and if the ship was seized the ship would suffer. The Captain, therefore, had to be very careful not to carry contraband. It would have been the duty of the Captain to refuse all articles declared as contraband by Russia. The intention of the clause relating to "Princes and rulers of people" was to protect the ship from being captured and sent to the "tender mercies of a Russian Prize Court." The parties agreed to this clause being put in: not to carry contraband; the primary object was to free the ship from liability of capture. His argument was that it would be unlawful for the Master to accept contraband, or the Charterers to put such on board, if it would incur risk of detention to the ship. And if this clause was put in on behalf of the ship-owner it was the Captain's duty to refuse contraband. When Russia declared any article as contraband it was contraband till a repudiation was repudiated authoritatively. Until it was repudiated it was the duty of the ship-owner to refuse to take on board cargo which would make the ship liable to detention. These goods—rice, etc.—were declared contraband by Russia. The Russians would take the ship before a prize court, retain her, and perhaps confiscate her. She would certainly have been brought to Vladivostock and retained.

His Lordship—Not by International law, but by the practice in vogue in Russia!

Mr. Slade—She would render herself liable to be retained by "Princes and the rulers of people."

To-day being the King's Birthday, the case was adjourned till to-morrow morning at eleven o'clock.

Thursday, 10th November.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY
(CHIEF JUSTICE.)

OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA V. OWNERS OF S.S.

"PROMETHEUS."

This case was continued.

Mr. Slade, resuming, said that the Russian declaration meant as absolute contraband all foodstuffs consigned to Japanese ports. The

Russian Prize Court at Vladivostock so interpreted the declaration in the case of the *Arabia*. It would have been the duty of the Russian cruisers to seize and send to Vladivostock any ship found by them with foodstuffs for a Japanese port. The Court had to interpret the meaning of the Charter Party in accordance with the intention of the parties. He submitted that by the mere act of hiring a ship, apart from any special terms, a duty was imposed on the charterer—not on the ship—not to ship any goods by which the ship might be subjected to detention or forfeiture. It followed, necessarily, that it was the duty of the master not to take such goods on board. He would have to sign bills of lading under which the shipowners were liable to the shippers of the cargo, if the shipowners accepted cargo which would render the ship liable to detention. If the captain took on board such goods his conduct would be contributory to "Restraint of Princes." It was therefore his duty to refuse such cargo.

His Lordship asked how Mr. Slade explained the clause saying that the Charter Party was not to be cancelled in the event of war being declared. Was not that an agreement to take risk? It seemed to him that such was an agreement to run the risk of retention by princes.

Mr. Slade said that was not so. The Charter Party must be taken as a whole. The shipowners were only bound to carry all goods, whether war was declared or not, if they did not come under the heading of contraband.

His Lordship—Well, why mention war?

Mr. Slade replied that it was to show that war was anticipated. It was an agreement between a Japanese charterer and a neutral ship-owner. The Charterer did not desire to conceal that war was approaching. The Charter Party was drawn up before the outbreak of hostilities.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—War was never declared.

His Lordship—It broke out, which is the same thing.

Mr. Slade resuming his defence said that this was not an agreement to carry contraband. If the ship ran the risk of seizure by one of the belligerents, whether such seizure was legal or illegal, the ship ran the risk of "Restraint of Princes."

His Lordship said he was inclined to think the ship, under the circumstances, agreed to run the risk. The agreement was not to be cancelled if war was declared: the ship must proceed with her cargo just the same. That is why the clause was put in.

Mr. Slade said that one clause modified another. In the Charter Party it was agreed that the ship should run no risks.

His Lordship—If he agreed to take belligerents' goods, whether he was carrying contraband or not, he was liable to detention by the other belligerent when carrying goods from one of the enemy's ports to another.

Mr. Slade—Not to non-treaty ports: to open ports only. Read it, My Lord.

His Lordship—Open ports of the enemy. What would the Russians care if the ports were open or not? They were to go from one to another of the enemy's ports.

Mr. Slade said that Russia was bound by the Declaration of Paris not to capture neutral ships carrying Japanese goods on a neutral trade—that is when they were not carrying contraband.

His Lordship said Mr. Slade had to impress him on the point of open ports. It was not unlawful to run risk: it was only a question of £. s. d. They desired to withdraw from the Charter Party.

Mr. Slade—We have never wanted to draw out of the Charter Party.

His Lordship—You refused to carry goods.

Mr. Slade—We only refused to carry contraband.

His Lordship—Well, you must take some risk. You knew war was going to break out, and agreed not to break the Charter Party, though you chartered the ship to one of the belligerents.

Mr. Slade said that this was simply an agreement not to discontinue the Charter Party in the event of hostilities. It was agreed, though, that there was to be no risk: This clause was deliberately left in.

His Lordship—Did you not say something about more money?

Mr. Slade—Yes, we never contracted to carry contraband and run all this risk, but said "If you pay us more we will do so." Ship-owners are not sentimental. A ship is worth so much if you pay more we will run risk.

His Lordship—My view is that this clause not to cancel the Charter Party in the event of war did not permit you to decline to carry cargo on the ground of "Restraint of Princes."

Mr. Slade repeated his former argument.

His Lordship—You say then "If I have reason to fear 'Restraint of Princes' I can cancel when I like." Your argument, however, may be sound: the shipowner merely engages not to cancel in the event of war being declared, but refuses to carry contraband on the ground that he would render the ship liable to seizure. What did they contract to carry?

Mr. Slade—Cargo.

His Lordship—That is not contraband. If Russia were to declare that no neutral ship had got a right in Japanese ports, would that give you a right to go to Japanese ports? Is that what you say?

Mr. Slade—I do. It was made quite clear that the ship was to run no risk of any kind whatever. The question might arise as to how much risk a ship reasonably might run. In this case the ship was to run no risk.

His Lordship—What about the telegram from the ship-owners in Norway: they say to refuse rice and sugar, and "Try cancel."

Mr. Slade said they might not have known the facts of the Charter Party when they sent that telegram. An explanation of this "Try cancel" telegram was that it was an answer to a wire from the Captain asking for instructions. Just before that time the Osaka Shosen Kaisha had asked the Captain for a definition as to what was contraband of war.

His Lordship—Why did they say "Try cancel"?

Mr. Slade replied that the owners not knowing the full facts of the Charter Party wired to "Try cancel." They were aware that there was a dispute regarding contraband, and thought that instructions "try cancel" might avoid litigation, into which, as a matter of fact, they have been led. This telegram was dated 18th March, five weeks and three days after the signing of the Charter Party. It took 35 or 36 days for a letter to go from Hongkong to Norway, and they did not know when the mail left. Another telegram was sent from the owners in Norway on the 26th March. It said to follow the agreements as laid down in the Charter Party, and refuse contraband. This telegram was sent—not like the former one—when the owners knew the facts of the Charter Party. They were quite satisfied, and simply said to refuse contraband.

His Lordship—There are such fine points in this case that it would have been very much better if it had come before the Court in the first instance.

Mr. Slade—We wanted to, My Lord, but the other side would not do so.

Continuing Mr. Slade said that the Charter Party was never cancelled. The ship was, after her return to Hongkong, sent to Moji to load a cargo of coal for Hongkong; and was then sub-chartered to other people.

His Lordship turning to another point said that under the circumstances the ship must have reasonable apprehension of risk. Supposing that Russia had not a ship in these waters there would be no reasonable apprehension of restraint of princes. One power may have strength enough to capture a neutral ship carrying what it called contraband, though the cargo was not contraband according to the Law of Nations.

Mr. Slade—I say that Clause 37 was inserted to get rid of all questions as to the amount of risk. Suppose you hold rice and sugar as not contraband you hold that the Charterers had a right to ship these goods.

His Lordship—One follows the other.

Mr. Slade—Yet the Captain would have signed the bills of lading of innocent shippers, giving the shippers power, in the event of the vessel being captured, of coming down on the ship.

His Lordship—They could come down on the ship, though the charterers took the freight?

Mr. Slade—Yes.

His Lordship took a note of Mr. Slade's contention.

Mr. Slade said that at the time Russia had a strong naval force, including many fast cruisers in the East. Russian warships and Prize Courts, would be governed by Russian regulations. What did the ship-owner know about International Law? What was of more immediate importance to him was how to protect himself against the Russians. It was customary for ship-owners to insure their ships. There was a usual clause in the policies, freeing the insurance companies from risk of capture. If they were to run the risk of seizure, the object of insurance would be avoided.

His Lordship—You mean to say that if the ship had been captured the insurance would be risked?

Mr. Slade—Yes.

His Lordship—I do not think that at the time of signing the Charter Party it was in the minds of the parties that foodstuffs were contraband.

Mr. Slade—I will refer Your Lordship to a letter from the Charterers dated the 20th February, before the *Prometheus* left Hongkong on her first voyage. In this they asked the agents to discharge the captain because he objected to rice and sugar on the ground that they were contraband. This was only ten days after the signing of the Charter Party, and before the Russian Declaration regarding contraband.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—And after the Insurance Companies had notified that they were contraband.

Mr. Slade said that there was no evidence of that, and even if there was, inasmuch that it was in the minds of shipping insurance companies that Russia would put rice on the contraband list, it was to be assumed that it was in the minds of the Charterers.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—Freights had risen because of war risks. We do not know that a special freight was not paid.

Mr. Slade—The shipowners refused to run risk; the charter was nothing unusual. My Lord, would the Captain have been right not to object if rifles had been put on board?

His Lordship—No, I do not think so. You say it was only right for them to trade with articles not intended for a warlike purpose yet you give the right to one belligerent to say that whatever they like to say is contraband of war. I put it: if you once agree to take goods you have to take them, and before you can refuse to take them you must show them to be contraband according to the English way of thinking.

Mr. Slade—Take the meaning of the word contraband—

His Lordship—Yes, I know, contraband means against declaration, but that is not how we take it. You must have a word: The contract was made at Hongkong. You have, however, a very strong argument: the ship-owner may have intended to clear himself from carrying anything declared contraband.

Mr. Slade—The interpretation the Prize Court puts on International Law is International Law for the time being. I submit that Your Lordship as an English Judge must follow the decision of the Russian Prize Court and it is known to Your Lordship what the interpretation of that court is.

The case was further adjourned.

Friday, 11th November.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. SPENCER BERKELEY
(CHIEF JUSTICE).

OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA v. OWNERS OF
S.S. "PROMETHEUS."

The hearing of this case was resumed.

Mr. Slade—When we left off yesterday afternoon I was submitting to Your Lordship a point of International Law on the subject of contraband. The true view to take of the definition of the word contraband is everything that is in fact contraband in the present war.

His Lordship—I was completely impressed by your argument yesterday, and find two constructions have been placed on Clause 37. One is that the shipowner must be held to safeguard himself against carrying anything which would render the ship liable to detention.

Mr. Slade—According to International Law contraband has a very limited meaning—that is what is laid down in books as the proper thing for nations to declare contraband—but it has to be taken into consideration what is the practice, and that must modify what is laid down by authorities. Usage is of the utmost importance. The actual fact is that in no less than four wars in the last hundred years, provisions have been treated as contraband of war. The other nations, of course, may protest, and if strong enough may force the belligerents to modify their declaration. Yet, between that time, provisions are contraband of war. I will now continue to the second part of my contention:—If this ship trades to non-open ports she renders herself liable to confiscation, contrary to my friend's argument that she agreed to take risk. In the first place Mr. Arima never stated that by his instructions he understood that the ship was to be used on one of the Company's regular lines, probably between Japan and Formosa. In a letter from the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, to Messrs. Sander, Wieler & Co., nine days after the signing of the Charter Party, they communicated this for the first time.

His Lordship—The Charterers were known to Messrs. Sander, Wieler & Co. as a firm of Japanese ship-owners; the ship was chartered by a Japanese firm. What would they naturally suppose that the Japanese Company chartered the ship for?

Mr. Slade—The ship might be going to America.

His Lordship—She might be going anywhere, but what would they suppose?

Hon. E. H. Sharp—America is excluded in the Charter Party.

Mr. Slade—Well, to ports in Asia—open ports only. I can give Your Lordship very strong reasons to show that the ship-owner did not know. In the first place the words of the Charter were "open ports only."

His Lordship—Is it a fact that this Company trades only in Japan?

Hon. E. H. Sharp—Only Japan and Formosa.

Mr. Slade—Japan, Formosa, and elsewhere; they go to China.

His Lordship—I should think a reasonable inference would be that the ship was required for any trade the Charterers might want her for within the limits as laid down in the Charter.

Mr. Slade—Yes, My Lord, within the limits of the Charter Party—open ports. Open ports are clearly laid down. By Japanese Law, no other vessels except Japanese shall be allowed to trade to non-treaty Japanese ports, or to be put into trade between Japanese ports, except by special permission. The meaning of open ports is clearly defined.

His Lordship—If you have permission to trade to a non-open port, does that port become an open port?

Mr. Slade—No, My Lord.

His Lordship—An open port is a port not closed.

Mr. Slade—There is a sharp distinction between open ports and non-Treaty ports.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—Treaty and non-Treaty, I maintain, is very different from open and non-open.

Mr. Slade contended that the words were synonymous.

His Lordship—The only objection the master had was to carrying contraband.

Mr. Slade—That was the only objection the master had, but the owners shortly afterwards telegraphed about going on the coast trade. Nor was it in the minds of the Charterers at the time of signing the Charter Party. The Charter Party was signed on the 10th February, and it was not till the 19th February that the Osaka Shosen Kaisha wrote a letter to Messrs. Sander, Wieler & Co. saying that they would be notified by the German Consul that Japan had opened non-treaty ports to foreign ships chartered by Japanese companies, and their company had permission to so employ steamers if they desired. If it had been an ordinary thing for foreign ships to go to Japanese ports, what was the use of sending such a notification? How was it that a notification had been sent to the German Consul of an alteration in Japanese Law? That letter was sent nine days after the signing of the Charter Party, as a consequence, I submit, of fresh instructions

from Japan concerning the charter. Why did they not raise the question when the Charter Party was signed?

His Lordship—It was distinctly understood before the ship left for Japan.

Mr. Slade—If the Charter Party was for interport trade the words would have been inserted.

His Lordship—I think so too.

Mr. Slade—Messrs. Sander, Wieler and Co. replied to that letter that they took it non-treaty ports were open so long as the Japanese Government kept them open for foreign trade. That I submit is a very serious specific variation of the Charter Party. They had no right to agree to anything which would expose the ship to more than ordinary risks. The master of the ship is to all intents and purposes the agent of the ship-owner. If the agent agrees for the ship to enter non-treaty ports the Master must make an objection to doing so because the agent agrees to run more than ordinary risks. Without express authority from the ship-owner the agent cannot expose the ship to extraordinary risk. Authority is only given to him for ordinary risk. It is for the other side to show that they had this authority.

His Lordship—As a matter of fact, had they express authority?

Mr. Slade—No, my Lord, they had not. The ship-owner required \$3.25 extra per *mensem* if the ship was to be employed on the interport coast trade, carrying that which might be considered contraband of war—loading her with rice, etc. In an answer to a letter to that effect the Osaka Shosen Kaisha said they would refer the matter to their head office.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—They said it was unreasonable.

His Lordship—They did not say it was unlawful, but, however, this is a fresh point.

Mr. Slade continuing said that the rule laid down in Japan was that no foreign ships were allowed to take part in the privileged interport trade without express permission. This permission was given to neutral ships taking the place of Japanese ships employed as transports by the Japanese Government. Such neutral ships identified themselves with the enemy's ships by entering into a trade closed to neutrals—and specially reserved to one of the belligerents—so that one of the belligerents should turn their merchant ships into war-vessels.

His Lordship—These ships were chartered by the Japanese Government as transports.

Mr. Slade—Yes, My Lord, a privileged trade of the enemy. It has been suggested by my learned friend that it was a trade which might be carried on by licence for the time being. The trade was thrown more open, even by my friend's argument, at the outbreak of war. The Japanese made a new departure, and notified the German Consul.

Mr. Slade then quoted authority showing that a vessel sailing under the licence of a belligerent government should be treated as an enemy's vessel.

His Lordship—Does this mean licence as a war vessel?

Mr. Slade—No, My Lord, in any capacity. The fact of sending the ship on the interport trade was, even without contraband, sufficient for Russia to treat them as one of the enemy's ships.

His Lordship—They say you agreed to go there.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—We say they agreed to go to ports in fact open.

Mr. Slade said the agent had no authority to put the ship into risk, and the ship-owner repudiated such a suggestion at the very earliest opportunity. In conclusion he asked:—Could it be reasonable to suppose that the ship-owners agreed to go on a trade in which she rendered herself liable to capture, whether she carried contraband or not, when it was specifically stated that she was not to carry contraband?

Interrogated by His Lordship as to the question "was this an unlawful trade?" Mr. Slade said the interport trade was not unlawful, but it rendered the ship liable to capture.

Mr. Sharp again addressed His Worship. He said that the doctrine of 1766, quoted by Mr. Slade, was obsolete. It was invented for England's benefit by England during the war against France, in which France threw open closed ports to the Dutch because they were

forced to do so. In all the latest books it was said that the doctrine was obsolete. Besides, these non-Treaty ports were open to an extent before the war, so they were not thrown open altogether. Mr. Hewett said that it was open to foreign vessels.

His Lordship—From time to time.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—More than that, My Lord.

His Lordship—I think that before the war broke out it was customary in Japan to obtain permission to go to coast ports.

Hon. E. H. Sharp, continuing, said that Mr. Arima intended to charter the ship for this trade, and, as the subsequent correspondence showed, that was the agent's idea also. Messrs. Sander, Wieler & Co. must be taken to know something about what the Osaka Shosen Kaisha wanted ships for, when everyone knew war was going to break out. It was not mentioned in the Charter Party that the ship was not to be engaged on this trade, while it was mentioned that interport Philippine Island trade was excluded. The Philippine interport trade was closed to neutrals, and if the parties understood that Japanese interport trade was closed to neutrals it would have been inserted in the Charter Party—though, like the mention of the Philippines, it would have been superfluous. In reply to Mr. Slade's last question he held that this trade was not illegal, and did not render the ship liable to seizure.

His Lordship—Has there been any parallel case?

Mr. Slade—Yes, My Lord, the case of the German s.s. *Thea*, sunk by the Russians.

His Lordship—What did the Prize Court decide in that case?

Mr. Slade—That they were justified because the vessel was employed on the interport Japanese trade.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—There is no evidence that she was not going to the forces.

Mr. Slade—She was going to the forces with a cargo of fish manure then (Laughter).

Hon. E. H. Sharp observed that Mr. Slade said the ship was to run no risk. He denied that, an argument supported by the fact that it was a charter between a belligerent and a neutral ship-owner. The clause "Restraint of Princes" formed an analogy. Every ship ran the risk of "Restraint of Princes," when they were stopped at sea and searched—even the P. & O. (Laughter). It might be mentioned, in connection with what was in the minds of the signatories to the Charter Party, that they could not be taken to have known that Russia would declare food-stuffs contraband. The purpose of the charter was to carry foodstuffs; Mr. Arima had said it was usual for these ships to carry rice, sugar, wine, timber and sundries. Could it be taken that they had a right to refuse the very purpose of the Charter Party?

His Lordship said the Charterer might put on board anything that was not contraband. The question was whether the ship-owner was justified in refusing cargo having regard to Russia's declaration.

The case was adjourned.

Saturday, 12th November.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE).

OSAKA SHOSEN KAISHA v. OWNERS OF S.S. "PROMETHEUS."

The Hon. E. H. Sharp, resuming his argument for the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, submitted that his friend Mr. Slade was wrong when he said that the agents did not understand that the ship was to be used for carrying provisions, as evidenced by a letter from Mr. Arima. In that letter, he would point out, Mr. Arima took exception to the opinions of the Captain, and said they had better get another Captain or they would lose a great portion of their provision carrying trade, adding that none of the many other captains of the steamers chartered by the Company had raised any objection. It was clear, therefore, that Mr. Arima contemplated the carriage of rice and sugar between Formosa and Japan. Therefore, the question they had to consider at the moment was the question of the intention of the two parties to

this contract when the charter party was signed on the 10th February, viz., Messrs. Sander, Wieler and Co., on the one part, and Mr. Arima on the other. At this particular time the Captain was in Saigon, or on his way from Saigon to Hongkong, and he told them in his evidence, that he first knew about the charter about the 17th February. These facts could only indicate one conclusion, and that was, that seven days after completion of this contract, the Captain arrived here and expressed some misgiving, on his own account, as to whether provisions were contraband. This, however, could not conceivably affect a contract entered into seven days earlier, between Messrs. Sander, Wieler and Co., and Mr. Arima, the recognised agents of the steamer and charterers respectively. Counsel contended very strongly that the meaning of the word "contraband" in the charter-party was the meaning generally accepted at the time the charter was signed and not the more extended meaning given to it by the Russian declaration published a fortnight later. Counsel further contended that the Russian declaration was contrary to international law and therefore not binding on neutral Courts.

His Lordship said he was inclined to think that whatever the Government of a belligerent Power declared to be contraband was binding on the Courts of other Powers until it was revoked.

Mr. Sharp submitted, however, that as the British Government had refused to recognise the Russian declaration, the Courts could not regard it as binding.

His Lordship said he had a difficulty in recognising the principle that the Municipal Courts of a country other than Russia had the jurisdiction to determine what the Russian Government might properly or improperly declare to be contraband.

Mr. Sharp: The right view in this case is that your Lordship can take no cognisance of it because the Russian declaration did not exist when the contract was made, and in the absence of any clearly expressed intention that the word contraband should have a varying meaning, it must be interpreted by the generally accepted doctrine at the time the charter was signed.

Mr. Sharp proceeded to read from the *Times* parliamentary reports, extracts from speeches made by Lord Lansdowne and Mr. Balfour traversing the Russian doctrine and repudiating the suggestion that the decisions of Russian Courts were binding on other Powers when based upon the new doctrine.

The argument was concluded, and His Lordship adjourned.

S.S. "WONGKOKI" v. S.S. "UJINA."

This case will probably commence before the Chief Justice this morning. The action arises out of a collision between the North German Lloyd's steamer *Wongkoi* and the British India Company's steamer *Ujina* in the waters of the Colony on the 13th August. Both steamers are in port at present. The claim is for \$10,000. Messrs. Johnston, Stokes and Master will represent the North German Lloyd (plaintiffs) and Mr. John Hastings the British India Co. The case, it is believed, may occupy five days in the hearing.

The Criminal Sessions commence on the 18th inst. The calendar is a small one.

The Japanese Consul at Shanghai seems to have celebrated the Mikado's birthday in quite a marked manner. He gave a big ball and reception at the Country Club, entertaining on quite a lavish scale. A foreigner (Mr. Gardner) proposed the Royal toast.

Singapore Europeans are still agitating for some railway carriages to be reserved "for Europeans only." It seems that objectionable Chinese and natives have a fancy for travelling first class, and overcrowd the carriages. One complainant said that he had found a carriage crowded with "Chinese women in the regulation black costumes that everybody hereabouts understands the meaning of, and with their trousers pulled up above the knees and their feet up on the seats, smoking that, for Europeans, unbearably smelling Chinese tobacco, which made the whole coupe stink like anything but a 1st class coupe."

MARINE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

Friday, 4th November.

BEFORE MR. BASIL TAYLOR (ASSISTANT HARBOUR MASTER).

A COLLISION ENQUIRY.

An enquiry was held at the Harbour Master's Office to enquire into the circumstances of a collision between the launch *Cheong Lee* and the launch *Cheong Ching*, in the waters of the Colony on the 30th ult.

Lai Kan, master of the *Cheong Ching*, said that at about 10 p.m. on the 30th ult. he left Yaumati Police Pier to go to a wharf near the China Merchants' wharf. When close to the stern of an Apcar liner in port he saw the three lights of the *Cheong Lee*, a little on his port bow, about a boat's length off just under the stern of the mentioned steamer. He gave a blast on his whistle and went astern. The blast meant "porting helm," but he did not do so, not having time. His certificate went down with the launch.

This evidence was corroborated by Leung Lo, assistant coxswain of the other launch. The *Cheong Lee* went full astern when he saw the other launch. There was no room for them between the Apcar liner and the *Cheong Ching*. He gave a blast and ported his helm just before the collision.

Mr. Basil Taylor found the master of the *Cheong Ching* solely to blame for trying to pass too close to the stern of the Apcar steamer, and he blew one blast on his whistle without porting. He suspended the man's certificate for six months.

Tuesday, November 8th.

BEFORE HON. CAPT. L. BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N. (MARINE MAGISTRATE).

A LAWFUL MUTINY.

Twenty-one of the crew of the s.s. *Salfordia* were charged with wilfully continuing to disobey the lawful orders of the master of the ship, and refusing to proceed to sea since the 5th instant at Victoria harbour.

George C. Dusting, Master of the s.s. *Salfordia*, stated that the defendants, 11 in number, signed on at Cardiff to proceed to Manila and any other ports or places between 75 deg. north and 60 deg. south on a three years' agreement. He left Cardiff on the 12th August last and proceeded on his voyage round the Cape of Good Hope, calling at Durban for bunker coals. After leaving Durban he proceeded to Labuan for bunker coal. The day after his arrival there he received instructions by cable to take in sufficient coal to reach Vladivostock. Soon after he called all the crew together, and informed them that the vessel was ordered to Vladivostock, and asked them if they had any objection to going there. The whole of the crew refused. He tried to reason with them, but with no effect at the time. Three or four days later he again put the question. They all again refused. He cabled this decision to the owners, and received directions to proceed to Hongkong to prosecute the crew for refusing to proceed on the voyage according to agreement. He arrived here on the 5th, and asked for a summons on the 7th instant.

In reply to the Court: There was no mention made of the vessel carrying contraband when the articles were signed. No remarks were made on or interest displayed in the fact of his making the voyage round the Cape. He had had no difficulty with the defendants in respect of their duties, everything so far having gone on as usual. He was authorised by the owners while at Labuan to offer an inducement to these men to proceed. The bonus offered was two months' pay. Should any of the men express their willingness to proceed now, he was prepared to withdraw the charge against them.

The Magistrate to the defendants: You have heard the charge. Before hearing any further evidence, I am desirous of affording you an opportunity of altering your decision. You will possibly urge good reasons for your action in your

defence, but your case may, probably will, present difficulties; and in my opinion, taking also into due consideration that you have been offered a bonus to proceed, you would be well advised to accept.

Five minutes were given the defendants to make up their minds, when they all persisted in their refusal to proceed.

H. Jensen, donkeyman, speaking for the defendants, stated:—We signed articles to proceed to Manila via Durban, and never went to Manila. With respect to proceeding to Vladivostock, we refuse for the following reasons:—Several ships have been destroyed and lives lost in this contraband trade, owing to striking mines and other causes in the vicinity of the Russian ports. We have also received newspaper cuttings concerning the hardships endured by the crew of the *Cheltenham*, who were sent to England via Siberia, which, at this time of year, when we have no warm clothing, would be a great hardship.

By the Court: What reason have you to suppose you would be sent home via Siberia?

Defendant: We were informed that we should be sent home from Vladivostock.

The Master, on being recalled, said the only reason for this statement was that he informed the crew if the vessel was captured they would be sent home.

Defendant, in answer to the Magistrate, continued:—We had no reason whatever to suppose that the coal would be discharged elsewhere than at Manila. We were neither informed, nor led in any way to suppose that we were carrying contraband. Had we been so informed, we would not have signed on. We are willing to proceed in the ship anywhere except to belligerent ports, provided we are not carrying contraband.

The Master recalled:—It is stated on the ship's manifest that the coal is intended for Manila.

Each of the crew expressed his agreement with what the spokesman had stated.

The Hon. L. Barnes-Lawrence delivered judgment as follows: The points I have had to consider in determining this case are as follows:—

Articles were signed by which the crew were pledged to proceed in this vessel to Manila with a cargo of coal, where they were under the belief it would be discharged. On arrival at Labuan the Master was informed that the coal was intended for Vladivostock, and on communicating this news to the crew they refused, for the reasons stated, to proceed to that port. By the general and customary terms of the agreement the crew also undertook to proceed anywhere within certain latitudes, namely, 75 deg. and 60 deg., and under the normal conditions of an ordinary voyage, service between these limits would not have been disputed. The statements, however, made by the men as to the treatment recently accorded to certain neutral vessels carrying contraband of war, admit, unfortunately, of no contradiction, while, should Vladivostock be again bombarded, and this vessel be within its harbour at the time, danger to life may reasonably be apprehended. Under these circumstances, and taking into consideration that the crew were not informed when they signed articles that the vessel was carrying contraband, I am unable to regard the decision of the defendants in declining to proceed as an offence necessitating punishment, and I consequently dismiss the charge.

THE KING'S BIRTHDAY.

CELEBRATIONS AT HONGKONG.

The 9th inst. being the King's Birthday was observed as a public holiday. All the Government offices, the exchange banks, schools and most of the mercantile firms were closed. The day was favoured with glorious weather: the sky was perfectly cloudless in the morning; and the atmosphere was cool and very agreeable. British and foreign ships in harbour, almost without exception, were gaily decorated with bunting. At an early hour Hongkong presented a very active appearance: holiday makers crowding towards Happy Valley to see the King's Birthday Review. Rickshaws were practically unobtainable at the ferry landing and other centres, while the tram-

cars were crowded. Passing Ah Kin's slipway numerous sailing boats were seen making a departure from the anchorage. Some yachtsmen were out practically all day. The Royal Standard was hoisted at Head Quarters' house, and the Union Jack on board the hospital ship *Megne*. At Kowloon Police Pier the military authorities were busy embarking troops. This work was performed with remarkable smoothness: horses, etc., had been sent over on the previous day. The troops quartered at Hongkong, a variety companies of bluejackets and marines, and the Hongkong Volunteers as they marched to the Happy Valley added colour to the already gay appearance of the city.

THE PARADE.

The troops were reviewed at Happy Valley by His Excellency Major Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G. The picturesque parade around presented a most striking appearance. The Jockey Club's various stands were occupied by numerous holiday makers of both sexes, while, below, at the rear of the saluting point, were numerous others. On either side, immediately at the rear of the saluting base, the more favoured few had seats provided for them, by courtesy of Head Quarters' Officers. The troops were drawn up in two lines in the following order, commencing from the right:—the Saluting Battery, Blue-jackets, Marines, Royal Garrison Artillery, Royal Engineers, First Company of Sherwood Foresters (The Derby and Nottingham Regiment), Hongkong and Singapore Battalion of Royal Artillery, Hongkong Volunteer Corps, the 110th Mahratta Light Infantry, the 93rd Burma Infantry, and the 114th Mahrattas. The massed bands of the various regiments were drawn up on the right rear of the second line, under the baton of the Bandmaster of the First Sherwood Foresters. His Excellency Major-General Villiers Hatton, C.B., the officer commanding His Majesty's Forces in Hongkong and South China, accompanied by his staff—consisting of Capt. E. S. Ward, A.D.C. to his Excellency; Major A. A. Chichester, D.S.O., Chief Staff Officer; Major R. G. Ross, D.A.Q.M.G.; Lieut.-Col. Kent, officer commanding the Royal Garrison Artillery, and a trumpeter awaited the arrival of His Excellency the Governor. At about five minutes to ten His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan entered the enclosure, mounted on a beautiful chestnut horse: he was dressed in a grey suit and hat, and looked every inch a cavalryman. He was accompanied by the following *Aides de Camp*: Capt. Smith, R.A.; Capt. Hodgson, S.F.; and Jemadar Bal Kaishna Ras, of the 11th Mahrattas. On their approach to the Saluting Base the Royal Standard was unfurled. The General Officer Commanding Troops and his staff were stationed about thirty paces in front of the troops. As soon as the Viceregal party took up their position at the saluting base His Excellency Major-General Villiers Hatton issued the command "Division will come to attention and slope arms"—"Division Royal salute"—"Present arms." The band thereon struck up the first stanza of the National Anthem, at the conclusion of which the order was given to resume the position at the slope. At this stage, while His Excellency the Governor was proceeding towards the troops for the purpose of inspecting them, a diversion was caused by a staff officer's horse becoming very restive. After butting up against the Governor, and others of the party, the officer wisely decided to discard his scabbard and sword, which was evidently the cause of the mischief. His Excellency inspected the troops with the eye of one evidently well versed in military matters. After the inspection, which met with His Excellency's approbation, the division fired a *feu de joie*. Unfortunately the effect was slightly marred by the discharge of a few offending rounds before their time. This was followed by another Royal Salute similar to the previous one. The division then came to the order, removed their head dress, and, taking their time from the General Officer Commanding, gave three ringing cheers for His Majesty King Edward VII, numerous spectators taking up the cry. This was followed by the march past; the order was as follows: Signallers from each detachment formed into one company, General Officer Com-

manding and staff, and the various companies in the same order as given when drawn up in line—excepting, of course, the saluting battery. It would be nvidious for us to draw comparisons, but special praise is due for the admirable way in which the Naval Detachment performed their various evolutions. We should certainly have liked to see a larger muster of the Hongkong Volunteers, who acquitted themselves in a soldier-like manner. The Naval Detachment was under Capt. Leslie C. Stewart, C.M.R., M.V.O. (H.M.S. *Vengeance*), and the other detachments under their various commanding officers. The massed bands played selections for each individual detachment—*their own regimental march*. The sailors and marines marched to the tune of "Life on the Ocean Wave," and our own volunteers to that of the "Grenadier Guards." Several companies received the acclamation of the onlookers. At the conclusion of the march past the officers and colours took post in review order. Division came to the slope, and then there was a repetition of the salute. Afterward His Excellency left the parade around, the troops marched off, and the crowd dispersed.

THE GENERAL'S RECEPTION.

During the afternoon Major-General Villiers Hatton held a reception at Headquarters, at which many visitors attended. Amongst those present were His Excellency the Governor and his aides-de-camp, several British Army and Naval officers, German naval officers and many civilians.

G VERNOR'S LEVEE.

In the evening His Excellency entertained some fifty guests, heads of departments, &c., to dinner at Government House, and afterwards held a general reception. The grounds were prettily decorated with a profusion of Japanese lanterns, while the interior of the house was gaily adorned with greenery and bunting. This showed particularly to advantage under the electric light.

His Excellency was received individually a large number of guests of both sexes. After the reception, the guests either strolled about the premises admiring the decorations, or betook themselves to the hall below, where light refreshments were dispensed.

The decorations on the staircase are deserving of special mention, drooping palms forming an archway into the reception room. Around the flower pots on either side clusters of maiden-hair ferns were prettily arranged.

After dark last night, H.M.S. *Vengeance* in harbour was illuminated with electric lights. One of the German ships had illuminated a big "E" surmounted by a crown.

FASHIONABLE WEDDING.

A quiet wedding took place at St. Joseph's Church on the 7th inst., when Dr. Gregory Paul Jordan and Mrs. Marion Josephine Ormsby-Daly were united in the bonds of holy matrimony. The Rev. Father Kelly (who is an uncle of the bride) conducted the ceremony, assisted by the Rev. Father Augustine. The church was prettily decorated for the occasion.

Sir Paul Chater (who is an uncle of the bridegroom) gave the bride away, while Mr. A. G. Ward acted as best man. Mr. E. Danenberg officiated on the organ, and as the happy couple came out of the church the Misses Stella, Phoebe, Iris and Dione May, and Masters Nigel and Bernard Atkinson and Maurice and Gerald Slade, scattered flowers across their path.

The bridal party then betook themselves to the residence of Sir Paul Chater at Caine Road where the wedding breakfast was held.

A most representative gathering was present, and the large dining room of Sir Paul Chater's was not sufficiently large to hold the guests, who were gathered round all the doors.

The Hon. F. H. May, in proposing the toast of the bride and bridegroom, asked all present to charge their glasses. He was an Irishman, and all knew that Irish ladies were renowned for their beauty and goodness of heart, and they had evidence of this before them.

The bridegroom, both professionally and socially, was a man of the kindest heart, who

had endeared himself to those present and also to many who were not present. It said something for the Medical Officer's professional skill that he (the speaker), who had a wife and four daughters present in excellent health, had just died out on fourteen successive occasions, and still felt fit for more (laughter). He assured the happy couple that in this right little, tight little island, they would receive the heartiest of welcomes.

The toast was enthusiastically drunk, and cheers for the bride and bridegroom were loud and long.

Dr. Jordan, in responding on behalf of his wife and himself, said:—

I cannot find words adequately expressive of the warmth of my feelings to all who are gathered here to-day for the flattering reception given to my wife and myself. We shall carry away a pleasant and lasting recollection of the kindness extended to us.

With regard to the proposer of the toast, I will not attempt to answer his speech. I can only say that my relations with him, and with the rest of you, have been one of the greatest sources of joy and pride, and I have to thank you all for having so cordially received us here to-day, and I only ask you now that the same friendship as you have extended to me in the past, you will still extend to my wife and myself.

On behalf of my wife and myself I have to thank you most cordially for the hearty welcome extended to us, for your kind congratulations, and also for your lovely present.

The happy couple then received the congratulations of all present, and taking advantage of a quiet moment, left the house, thus avoiding the showers of rice with which they would have otherwise been greeted.

Various and handsome were the presents, a large number being brought out by the bride from friends at home, she having but lately arrived:—

The following is a list:—
Sir Paul Chater, a diamond necklace, and pendant; Mr. and Mrs. Chan Kai Ming, pearl bracelet; Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Parker, gold bracelet; Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Marshall, gold match-box; Mr. and Mrs. S. Sassoon, gold necklace with sapphire and pearl pendant; Mr. A. G. Stokes, silver cigarette case; Mr. E. Pabaney, gold chain, and "Good Luck" bracelet; Mr. Wong Lai Sang, gold coin bracelet; Mr. A. N. Mody, pearl and diamond earrings; Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Nemajee, pearl-mounted watch; Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Gaspar, writing case; Mr. and Mrs. Holdsums, carved black-wood table; Mr. Wei On, silver punch bowl; Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Brotherton Harker, ancient panels; Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Slade, silver photograph frame; Mr. and Mrs. T. Jones, cushion; Mr. and Mrs. E. Jones, cushion; Mr. Shigenaga, ancient Chinese vase with silver dragon; Mr. F. H. Arjane, silver frame; Mr. and Mrs. Humphreys, silver card tray; Dr. and Mrs. Bell, silver-mounted inkstand; Mr. and Mrs. Beck, silver spoons; Mr. and Mrs. Goetz, satsuma card tray; Mr. and Mrs. Hutton Potts, pair of silver photo frames; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Shellim, silver card tray; Mr. and Mrs. Peters, silver punch bowl; Mr. and Mrs. E. Ellis, silver toast-rack; Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Aitkens, silver dragon; Mr. V. H. Deacon, silver coffee set; Mr. and Mrs. Arrathoon Seth, silver liqueur set; Mr. S. A. Seth, silver writing set; Mr. D. Macdonald, silver card bowl; Mr. A. Babington, drawing-room clock; Hon. Mr. and Mrs. F. H. May and the Misses May, silver writing set; Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Jupp, silver ink-stand; Mr. J. R. M. Smith, solid silver salver; Mrs. Vernon, silver cruet set; Mr. and Mrs. A. Mackenzie, silver photo frame; Mr. A. G. Ward, silver photo frame; Mr. and Mrs. Volpicelli, carved ivory vase; Mr. Aratoon V. Apcar, silver punch-bowl; Mr. and Mrs. Grant Smith, silver trinket box; Dr. Keyt, silver cigarette case; Mr. and Mrs. John A. Plummer, pair of silver sweet dishes; Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Atkinson, four silver flower vases; Mr. A. F. Forster, silver match holder; Dr. and Mr. Kew, silver box; Mr. B. L. Bottwalla, silver photo frame; Dr. and Mrs. Hunter, silver photo frame; Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Slade, silver flower vases; Hon. R. Shewan, silver egg dish; Mr. John Gregory, silver card tray; Mr. C. J. Cooke, silver pin cushion; Mr. and Mrs. Mowbray Northcote, silver butter dish,

and flower holder; Mr. and Mrs. Tarrant, silver pot pourri; Mr. W. Taylor, silver mounted claret jug; Capt. and Mrs. Milroy, silver fruit spoons; Mr. and Mrs. Bisney, silver tea set; Mr. and Mrs. Tilden, silver flower vases; Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Siebs, gold-pated fruit spoons; Mr. and Mrs. Geo. P. Lammert, carved black-wood chair; Mr. James Rankin, silver lamp; Mr. T. F. Hough, clock; Mr. and Mrs. Ahmet Rumjahn, silver box; Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Hazelton, silver flower-vases; Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Plummer, flower bowls in silver; Mr. and Mrs. H. Crombie, fruit-dishes in silver; Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Douglas, silver bowl; Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Mihara, ivory fan and silk doyley; Dr. Forsyth, patent razors; Mr. and Mrs. McLean Gibson, sweet dishes; Mr. and Mrs. Grace, silver flower vases; Mr. H. Percy Smith, silver specimen vase; Mr. and Mrs. A. H. M. da Silva, silver spoon; Mr. A. H. Skelton, and Mrs. S. A. Skelton, silver fruit dish; Mr. and Mrs. Adam Gibson, silver photo frame; Mr. Bruce Shepherd, silver *epergne*; Mr. and Mrs. G. J. B. Sayer, album; Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Silas, silver card tray; Mr. Wei On, silver bowl; Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Hodgins, set of lacquered tables; Mr. and Mrs. Shelton Hooper, picture; Mr. and Mrs. J. Hooper, silk embroidered table cloth; Mr. J. Orange, Chin-se puzzle; Miss Ellis, silver card tray; Mr. and Mrs. Pinckney, book; Mr. and Miss Swan, bridge-box; A. Chuck, tea set; Mr. A. Howard, silver card trays; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Herbert Rennie, carved blackwood chair; Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Chinese embroidered satin coat; Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, set of silver-mounted finger bowls; Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Jordan, clock; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Tomkins, vase; Mr. and Mrs. Ho Lung, silver flower stands; Mr. Armin Haupt, cloisonné vases; District Grand Lodge of Scottish Freemasonry, set of silver flower vases and silver-mounted finger bowls; Mr. and Mrs. Fred. D. Goddard, silver bowl; Mr. and Mrs. E. Osborne, bronze lobster ornament; Mr. S. D. Moonshee, silver card tray; Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Rose, cushion.

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

At a monthly meeting of the General Committee of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, held in the Chamber Room, St. George's Building, on Wednesday, 5th October, at 3.30 p.m., present:—Messrs. E. A. Hewett (Chairman), D. R. Law (Vice-Chairman), Hon. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. A. Haupt, N. A. Siebs, J. R. M. Smith, R. C. Wilcox, A. G. Wood, Hon. R. Shewan (ex officio), and A. R. Lowe (Secretary).

MINUTES.
The minutes of monthly meeting held on 5th ultimo were read and confirmed.

QUARANTINE.

It was reported that the Hon. Colonial Secretary had courteously informed the Chamber of the removal of quarantine restrictions against arrivals from Hongkong by the authorities at the ports of Singapore, Saigon, Batavia, Newchwang and Bangkok.

The Chairman referred to the correspondence regarding the stringent restrictions at Newchwang, and it was agreed to let the matter drop in view of the extraordinary circumstances in which the authorities were placed this year.

ZONE TIME.

Further correspondence was read, and it was decided to recommend the Government to bring in Zone Time on the 1st January, 1905. The Secretary was authorised to publish the whole correspondence.

CURRENCY QUESTION.

The correspondence relating to the recent joint letter to the Diplomatic Corps at Peking from the Chambers of Commerce at Shanghai, Tientsin, and Hongkong was read and passed for publication.

PARIS SANITARY CONVENTION.

The copy of the new Convention on which the Government have asked the Chamber to give their opinion regarding its adaptability for use in Hongkong was discussed at some length and referred to a Sub-Committee for further report.

REGISTRATION OF CHINESE PARTNERSHIPS.
Further discussion took place on the above subject, and the matter was again adjourned until the next meeting.

NEW OFFICES.

The Chairman said that this was the first occasion they had met in the new offices, which would be found more convenient under existing conditions in which to transact the business of the Chamber than the old room; but the Committee would no doubt experience a feeling of regret in vacating the room in the City Hall, which had been occupied for 34½ years, and in which so much good work had been done for mercantile interests of the Colony by their predecessors.

It was resolved that the settling of the terms of the three years' lease of the two offices rented by the Chamber from Messrs. Shewan, Tomes & Co. should be left to the discretion of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and Mr. A. R. Lowe (Secretary), who are empowered to sign the lease.

MACAO.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

7th November.

A BIRTHDAY VISITOR.

The gunboat *Rio Lima*, commanded by Commander Riss, left Lisbon on the 16th ult. for this, via many ports. She is not expected to arrive here until late in January. She relieves the *Diva*. The latter vessel, after a short visit to Canton, returned here on the 2nd instant and is leaving for Hongkong to-day to be there on the King's birthday.

ZONE TIME MISTAKES.

Zone time was adopted here on Saturday night, the 29th ult., without any fuss, and so quietly that many arrived too late for the service on Sunday because they did not know of the alteration. The Military Band also changed the time and place of playing, although in the *Government Gazette* it was advertised to play from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Public Garden. It played in the Avenida from 3 to 5 without any notification.

FIRE AT FIREWORKS FACTORY.

On the 31st ult. at 9 p.m. two guns fired from Monte Fort announced a conflagration. The big glare, accompanied by a little explosion, made us believe it to be something terrible, but fortunately it was only a few huts outside the town, in Sakong, and the fire cracker factory, which burnt.

HARBOUR ADMINISTRATION.

On the 5th instant Post Captain Xavier Leitas relieved Captain Alves Branco, the Harbour Master. The Assistant Harbour Master's place is now suppressed. Both Captain Alves Branco and Commander Alcobia, Assistant Harbour Master, are going home very soon.

GOOD NEWS FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

It is a current topic here that the Government have received instructions from Home to pay the employees at a better rate of exchange, giving 540 reis per dollar, equivalent to an increase of 18 per cent., from the 30th inst.

RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL.

Great preparations are now being made for the festivities of the Immaculate Conception. There will be many processions all over the place, and from different churches or temples, each in turn.

OLD CHURCH TO BE REBUILT.

On the 3rd prox there will be the ceremonies of laying the foundation stone for reconstruction of St. Paul's Church, of which only the frontispiece now remains. It has been a landmark since 1833, when the old church built in the 15th century was burnt. There will be a fancy fair, fireworks and illuminations, for three days.

SOCIAL PREPARATIONS.

Preparations are being made for balls and soirées at the Clubs here. The 26th instant seems to have been fixed for a Bachelors' Ball in the Macao Club.

The *Rangoon Times* publishes a telegram, dated Calcutta, 27th October, regarding Sir Frank Swettenham and Lady Swettenham, his wife. The telegram says that the Divorce Court has made an order against Sir Frank Swettenham, on a petition for restitution of conjugal rights on the part of his wife, whom he is alleged to have left in 1894.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

9th November.

RICE.

The rice crop in the neighbourhood of Canton is very promising, although this does not hold good throughout the province. In the Namhoi district it is expected that the yield will be four piculs per mow. In the district of Hokshan the tobacco crop is very good, far above that of late years, but the trade is dull, as business is everywhere. The authorities have ordered the Namhoi magistrate to instruct officials all over Kwangtung to put up proclamations to the effect that there is no danger in these parts from the war, as China will observe strict neutrality. I do not know whether there is any truth in the statement that merchants here are anxious about this question, but the native press is responsible for it, though it seems very unlikely.

DISORDER.

Robberies, murders, and executions continue daily; this year will be indeed reckoned as a bad one even in this province. On the 2nd of this month so well known a place as the lowest temple on the White Cloud hills was invaded by a band of robbers, who stole all they could lay hands on. On the next day a large pawnshop in Ko Ng, a town in the Pun Yü district near here, was plundered in broad daylight, the townspeople not daring to interfere with the brigands, who numbered 300. On the other hand fifteen criminals were beheaded on Saturday here, and 24 pirates by Commander Li last week. Li has been scouring the delta in search of pirates, and is now in the Heungshan district.

MEDICAL COLLEGE OPENED.

The opening of the Canton Medical College last week was a great success. The chief officials attended at 2 p.m. and the hall was again filled by foreigners at 6. So that evidently great interest is taken in this excellent institution, which deserves success.

FOOCHOW.

The Report of the Trustees of the Foochow Road Trust for the season 1903/4 has been before the Community this week. [Oct. 29.] The report and accounts were duly passed. The meeting on October 27th, which consisted of some dozen persons, was most harmonious, and resulted, after a ballot, in the re-election of the retiring trustees. However, public attention may perhaps be drawn and interest solicited in the subject of the many cows, goats, sheep, etc., the few young trees ("stripings" the cows would call them), and some fourteen policemen (which is what they want to be called). These said "policemen" receive as part wages the sum of \$2 a month from the Community. The only apparent return is an occasional "come to attention," and a still more occasional salute distributed indiscriminately as a sort of sop to any Cerberus who catches their guilty eye.

The care of the young trees is of the greatest importance, and they have with the others, we agree with the Trustees' Report, "received the usual care"—mostly from cows. It is preposterous to imagine that we can keep native-owned cattle from grazing on the hills. With proper attention they are barely undesirable. But, who sees that they get this? It would be encouraging to see some effort towards discipline in these so-called policemen. Could they not be set to watch the cow-watchers? At present they seem to spend all their time gloating hungry-eyed over cake and pea-nut stalls when they are not interested in a street gamble or jabbering in shops, where, as elsewhere, they seem to hunt in couples. We may be told that this is the Chinese method *par excellence* of gleaning information as to the possible, dare we say probable, presence of bad characters in the neighbourhood. But the wholesale robberies by the thief we referred to last week do not speak volumes for the method. Let them have a regular "beat" and "beat" it, or—be beaten. Money is thrown away on such loafers. They are dear at any price.

And here we come to the end of the whole matter. Neither the Chief of the Police nor the Road Trustee can do all that might be

done if the Community do not remember that, in their executive capacity, the Trustees are, after all, only representative. Unless the community will heartily co-operate with them by at once reporting any irregularity that may be noticed, satisfactory results can neither be ensured nor expected. At present the support of the Trustees is merely financial, and for such an object, none too generous. The Trustees, and upon their representation the Consuls, are able and willing, not only to prevent abuses, but to maintain the Settlement on lines worthy of so large an European community, to every member of which we should like to appeal for a wider and more active interest in the Road Trust.—*Foochow Daily Echo.*

HONGKONG BOAT CLUB.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Hongkong Boat Club was held at the Club's Gymnasium, Tsimshatsui, on the 8th instant.

The Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., presided, and there were a fair number of members present.

REPORT.

The report showed a credit balance of \$2,428.90. The fleet of boats is in good condition. There are four 4-oar boats, two double sculls, one pair oar, seven sculling tubs, two randans and one dinghy. A new pair oar and double sculling boats are under construction. The Sub-Committee appointed to arrange the amalgamation with the Yacht Club hope to lay the proposals before a General Meeting in a short time.

RACES.

Crews were entered at the V.R.C. Regatta for the following events:—International Ladies' Prize and Hon. F. H. May's Challenge Cup. In each of the foregoing races the Boat Club crew won. The Challenge Cup was won for the second year in succession.

At the Canton Regatta the Interport Race and the sculling race were won by Boat Club crews.

There are 216 members on the roll of the Club.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., was re-elected President, Mr. E. W. Carpenter was re-elected Hon. Secretary, Mr. W. O. Koehler was re-elected Rowing Captain, and the following members were elected on the Committee:—Messrs. Carpenter, Gale, Warre, Koehler, Rouse and Blason.

S'ANGHAI GAS COMPANY.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Shanghai Gas Company was held at Shanghai on the 2nd instant, for the purpose of confirming the resolution passed at the extraordinary general meeting held on the 12th October. The resolution reads as follows: "That under the powers conferred by Article 47 of the Articles of Association, the Capital of the Company be increased to Tls. 2,500,000 Shanghai Sycee, by the creation of 34,000 new shares of Tls. 50 each." Mr. J. M. Young, who presided in the absence of Mr. J. L. Scott through illness, moved the resolution, and Mr. J. Cooper, another Director, seconded it. The business was purely formal and the resolution was carried unanimously. In addition to those already mentioned there were present Mr. P. F. Lavers (director), King Hiller (engineer), W. A. Platt (legal adviser) F. W. Potter, A. B. Trodd, J. Chatham, W. H. Poate, G. Stenhouse, A. Hunt, W. Armstrong, Dr. Reid, and W. H. Anderson, representing 3,920 shares and 956 votes.

SUICIDE AT HONGHAM.

Gunner L. G. Hamford, of the Chinese Revenue cruiser *Lekin*, committed suicide on the 4th instant in a matshed at Hongham whilst the vessel was in dock. When found by the Police he had a bullet wound in the left breast, but was still alive.

A revolver was lying beside him, one of the chambers of which was discharged.

The deceased owed a considerable sum of money and had been drinking heavily of late, and this is supposed to be the reason of his committing suicide.

TRADE DIFFICULTIES IN THE INTERIOR.

The case of Mr. H. Bennertz, who was in Shanghai on the 3rd inst., affords instructive examples of some of the difficulties which have to be encountered by those who would carry on trading enterprises in the interior, availing themselves of the treaties and regulations made between China and the Powers. The *N.C. Daily News* says: Mr. Bennertz is a British-born subject, who has been fifteen years in China, and who is well-acquainted therefore with the methods under which trading has to be carried on there. It is in connection with the recent opening of Changsha that he has what appears to be a substantial grievance.

Changsha, it will be remembered, was opened as a Treaty Port—the first in Hunan—on the 1st of July last. At Yochou and one or two other places foreigners had previously been allowed to call for business, but not to establish themselves in residence. In March of this year, anticipating development in the province, Mr. Bennertz, accompanied by his wife, went on a houseboat trip through a considerable portion of Hunan, spending some weeks on the expedition. He had been previously connected with the fibre industry, and it appeared to him that there were opportunities for trade in the hemp which grows wild in these districts; he applied accordingly to the Governor for a concession to deal with this hitherto wasted material on terms. His interpreter, Mr. Wu, an excellent scholar, had introduced him before this to one of the richest men in the province, who was willing to back the enterprise with capital. The Governor was on the point of coming to reasonable terms, when it came to his ears that there was Chinese wealth which might possibly be tapped, and Mr. Bennertz was informed that a payment of Tls. 200,000 would be required before the concession could be granted. This preposterous demand was at once refused, and the manner in which the refusal was interpreted by Mr. Wu to the Governor appears to have brought down on him the animosity of that official. A letter was now sent to Mr. Bennertz from the Secretary of the Bureau of Foreign Affairs calling on him to dismiss Mr. Wu from his employment, a requirement he has not seen fit to carry out. Mr. Wu is still with him and proving a useful ally. The concession fell through.

On the 18th of July Mr. Bennertz notified the Commissioner of Customs at Changsha that he intended to establish himself in the city-port and would open on the 20th. A reply came back the same night to the effect that foreigners could not occupy premises in the city itself, but Mr. Bennertz might establish himself in the area set apart for the new foreign settlement. The land so set apart is at present remote from all centres of trade, undrained, unhealthy, and unoccupied. When other cities have been opened merchants have invariably settled inside the city walls until the Settlement outside has been made ready for their residence. Mr. Bennertz had already taken premises in the city and had issued 400 invitations to the opening on the 20th. He tried to telegraph to the British Consul at Hankow, but the wires had, very conveniently for the officials at Changsha, broken down for three days. At length a message was got through and the Consul (Mr. Playfair) sent a despatch to the Changsha Taotai, who retorted by calling on Mr. Bennertz to remove his hong signboard from the city within eight days. On referring this demand to the Consul, Mr. Bennertz was advised to comply under protest, which he did by leaving it to the Chinese officials to come themselves and take the signboard down. Instead of doing that, the Taotai issued a further order extending the time in which Mr. Bennertz was himself to take down his sign by five days.

On the 29th of August Mr. Playfair had communicated with the British Commercial Attaché at Shanghai, Mr. J. W. Jamieson, who in turn referred the matter to the Minister at Peking. The reply received was that the British Minister had warned the Bureau of Foreign Affairs at Peking that these regulations and restrictions on trade at Changsha were, in the absence of the assent of the Powers, not binding on British merchants. The letter further assured Mr. Bennertz that

he was fully at liberty to open business premises and display his hong-board in the city of Changsha. Mr. Jamieson said he was writing to the Taotai to this effect, and if he, or the Commissioner of Customs, or the police made any attempt to remove the signboard or to seal up the premises, Mr. Bennertz was requested to let him know.

In spite of this strongly worded letter proclamations were subsequently issued by the five Taotais of Changsha, and sealed with three official seals, to the effect that foreign merchants were not to be allowed to live within or do business in the native city, and calling on the officials to report any foreigners they found so trading to the authorities. Handbills were also distributed to the same effect. Mr. Bennertz reported to Mr. Everard Fraser, who has now returned to his consulate at Hankow, and representations are being made on the subject to the Chinese. The matter is one that affects all foreigners in China, but it is perhaps worth noting that two Germans are residing and trading in Changsha city, and there seems therefore to be some discrimination exercised by the local magnates.

In connection with this question Mr. Bennertz is also testing another point of importance to foreigners. This is the right of foreign employees of Chinese firms to reside in non-treaty ports, or of foreigners to visit their Chinese agents at non-treaty ports. In August he visited the non-treaty port of Changteh there to establish a foreign agency for a Chinese firm. At first he was given an escort of four soldiers and well treated by the authorities, but in a little time the soldiers were withdrawn and he himself was called upon to leave. This matter is also the subject of correspondence and inquiry, and it is one the outcome of which will have far-reaching effects on foreign trade in China.

THE STRANDING OF THE "SWANLEY."

A Marine Court of Enquiry was held at the Master Attendant's office on October 31st into the stranding of the coolie ship *Swanley*, which struck on an uncharted reef near the Natuna Islands. Mr. E. C. Howard, the Senior Magistrate, presided, and the Court consisted of Lieut. Holmes, a naval officer, and Captains Tait and Symmers.

Mr. Farrer, the Deputy Public Prosecutor, conducted the enquiry for the Crown, and Mr. R. W. Braddell watched the case on behalf of the Captain.

Capt. Dawson was the first witness examined. They left Chin Wan Tao on September 24th bound for South Africa. On 3rd October at 6.25 p.m. they were two miles westward of an island, passing through the central channel. At 7 p.m. they took the bearings. They altered the course to S.W. At 7.27 they struck on an uncharted reef or coral patch. The vessel's speed was about 11½ knots. He expected to find twenty-five fathoms there. All the boats were lowered and the engines put full astern. The ship was then put slow ahead. He fired signals for assistance and ascertained the damage to the vessel. He sounded round the vessel, but could not get two soundings to a fathom. The ship was not making any water. Three tanks were filled with salt water. They tried to reduce the water, but it was impossible. They took soundings round the vessel and got from 14 to 24 fathoms. The ship was drawing about 19 feet at the time. He had the ballast tanks pumped out, but it did no good. The sea was calm, but there was a slight swell. An anchor was put down. They jettisoned the coal. The ship was bumping all the while. The ship was made as tight as possible and the pumps kept the water down. On Wednesday the weight of the boiler and the bumping caused the plates to give. They repaired the damage as much as possible and sent a boat away in charge of the second officer to look for an anchorage. They got the ship off the reef on Thursday and anchored her. All the coolies, except one hundred, were landed on Friday. On Saturday they landed fifteen days' provisions and also landed a few officers to look after the coolies. On Sunday morning they sailed for Singapore.

at about four knots. They arrived at Singapore at 6.30 p.m. on the 11th. The compass was correct. When on the reef he took the bearings as also did the second officer. On the morning after his arrival he reported the matter to the Master Attendant. The second officer had been sent to Hongkong to assist the Courtfield (which had gone to take the coolies off) in finding an anchorage. The first officer had been paid off, but the books had not been signed. Witness had told the chief officer in a different part of the Shipping Office that he had permission to pay him off, but this was a misunderstanding. The first officer was on duty on the night of the stranding. The lookout man, a Chinaman, had deserted, as also had a Chinese quartermaster who was at the helm on the night in question. He had taken out a warrant for their arrest at the instructions of the Master Attendant.

Mr. Braddell put a few questions to Capt. Dawson as to the position of the reef.

This witness was most difficult to follow. He spoke in a peculiar guttural undertone.

By the Court.—He had never been through this passage before when in a passenger ship. He had been in sailing vessels and cargo boats.

H. Brown, the first officer, was then called. He was on duty at the time of stranding. Witness proceeding to give the course of the vessel: About 7.27 the ship struck a reef and became fast. The engines were put full astern and the boats were got out. The speed was about 11 knots. Witness was on the bridge and the captain was seeing the course. The ship was making water in No. 1 and 2.

This witness did not appear to understand the questions put by the Deputy Public Prosecutor. Owing to his peculiar pronunciation it was almost impossible to follow his evidence. The Court also appeared to find it difficult to hear this witness.

Witness was understood to say that he had not been through this passage before.

Mr. Braddell had no questions to ask.

In answer to the Court, witness said he did not remember if he took bearings or not on a certain date. The Captain was looking at the chart when the vessel struck.

J. Edwards, the chief engineer, also gave evidence as to the working of the engines.

W. Johnston, second engineer, also gave evidence.

The Court notified the Deputy Public Prosecutor that they did not require the evidence of the other engineers.

The Court asked if there was any evidence as to the condition of the coolies on the island.

Mr. Farrer said that the gunboat which went to the Island had not returned yet.

Capt. Dawson said he had received letters from the overseer.

The Court said that there was so much other evidence that it was desirable to hear that they might adjourn the case.

Mr. Farrer agreed to this.

The enquiry was adjourned till November 22nd.—*Straits Times*.

YOKOHAMA HARBOUR.

It is stated that in view of the approaching arrival at Yokohama of the Oriental liner *Minnesota* from America the American Consul-General there some time ago asked the local Customs authorities whether the Yokohama harbour was able to offer anchorage for the gigantic steamer. The authorities, ascertaining that the depth of water was insufficient, applied to the Tokyo Government for a dredging fund and obtained an appropriation of 74,382 yen. The work has since been steadily carried out of dredging over 55 feet along the eastern wing of breakwater near the harbour mouth, which section is comparatively deep, and it is expected to be completed by about the 10th November. As steamers larger than the *Minnesota* are expected in the future, the authorities have already dredged another point to a depth of 33 feet on the north side of the pier and also a point 32 feet deep on the straight line of pier. They are contemplating the completion within seven years of the dredging of one million tsubo out of the total area of 1½ million tsubo in the harbour, exclusive of proposed official and private reclamation area.

THE DAIRY FARM COMPANY, LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of this Company was held at their office, Wyndham Street, on the 10th inst., the following shareholders being present:—Messrs. E. H. Hinds, Chairman, F. Maitland, E. Osborne, J. Walker, G. H. Potts, J. H. Underwood, W. H. Gaskell and S. A. Seth, Secretary.

The report, and accounts, as they follow, were laid on the table.

The profit for the year (including \$3,029.90 brought forward from last account), after providing for bad debts, directors' and auditor's fees, and other charges, amounts to \$34,760.77. It is recommended that the disposal of this sum be dealt with at an extraordinary general meeting of the company to be held immediately after the ordinary meeting, when the directors will lay a scheme of capitalization before the shareholders present.

DIRECTORS.

The board has appointed Mr. Edward Osborne to a seat on the directorate, and his appointment requires confirmation at this meeting. Dr. Noble and Mr. Osborne retire by rotation, and being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITOR.

In the absence of Mr. W. Hutton Potts, the annexed accounts have been audited by Mr. W. H. Gaskell. Mr. Potts offers himself for re-election at this meeting.

E. H. HINDS, Chairman.

BALANCE-SHEET.

31st July, 1904.

	\$ c.
To capital, 10,000 shares at \$7.50 each.....	75,000.00
Less not called up, \$1.50 per share	15,000.00
	<hr/>
To reserve fund	0,000.00
To accounts payable	23,591.39
To dividends uncollected	386.33
To profit and loss	34,760.77
	<hr/>
	\$143,738.49

ASSETS.

	\$ c.
By cattle	47,939.43
By property Farm lots 18, 19, 25 and 8	12,000.00
By buildings	16,567.60
By town depot	9,000.00
By furniture	1,099.70
By machinery and stores	2,178.60
By cash on hand and in bank	11,549.14
By investments on mortgage, and shares of public companies	13,465.00
By accounts receivable	29,939.02
	<hr/>
	\$143,738.49

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

	\$ c.
To directors' and auditor's fees	1,600.00
To bad debts	402.42
To balance	34,760.77
	<hr/>
	\$36,763.19
	<hr/>
By balance from last year	\$17,529.90
Less div. dend	\$12,500.00
Reserve fund	2,000.00
	14,500.00
	3,299.90
By interest	217.66
By transfer fees	4.00
By balance of working account	33,511.63
	\$36,763.19

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen, the report and accounts having been in your possession for some days, I will, with your permission, adopt the customary course and take them as read. Your directors are very pleased to be able to place before you such a satisfactory statement of the year's working, and you will have noticed in the report it is proposed to lay before you a scheme of capitalization at an extraordinary meeting to be held immediately after this, which I trust will meet with your approval. We are glad to inform you that the herd is in excellent condition. Our importation of high-class cattle from Scotland has turned out so successful that we have ordered another shipment, and although the initial cost is very heavy the result so far has justified the outlay. The general turnover in all departments of the business shows a large increase during the

last few years, and as there seems to be no limit to the growth of this colony we must always be in advance of the demand which may be made upon us. In order to accomplish this, you can readily understand our expenses are proportionately greater than our immediate increase of business. To meet our increased demand several new sheds have been built, more land has been placed under cultivation, and a house is now in course of construction at Pokfolum on account of the old quarters being found insufficient for our staff. We have recently purchased the stock and business of the Frozen Food Supply, which we hope will turn out a profitable investment; it is however too early to form any opinion. We are convinced that the quality of Australian meat is superior to the local article, but in order to compete with the latter and the idiosyncrasies of Chinese compradores and servants at the moment, we barely pay expenses. We have contracts to supply H.M. Navy and Army stationed here, who are very satisfied with the quality, and we hope that the climatic conditions in Australia will be of such a nature that we shall be able to supply frozen meat at an equal if not a lower price than the local article. We have purchased a steam launch for Harbour use and towing our fodder round to Pokfolum, where we are constructing an aerial tramway from the water's edge to the farm. The latter will enable us to give up our town godown and be a great saving in coolie hire. I think there is nothing further of interest that I can tell you, but shall be pleased to answer any questions you wish to put so far as I personally can.

As there were no questions put the CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. GEORGE POTTS had much pleasure in seconding the motion. As an original shareholder it gave him great satisfaction to say a few words with regard to the Directors' management. The company had had many ups and downs, but under the able management of the Directors, it looked now as if they were on the upward track. The report spoke for itself. He thought the new cold storage, the one thing they had been wanting, under the able management of the directors would prove a success.

The report was adopted.

ELECTION.

The retiring officials were re-elected for a further term of twelve months, and a motion proposed by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Stevenson confirming the appointment of Mr. Osborne as a Director was carried unanimously.

DIRECTORS' FEES.

Mr. POTTS proposed that the directors' fees be increased from \$1,500 to \$2,500. Mr. A. UNDERWOOD seconded the proposition, which was agreed to.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

This took place after the annual meeting, the same shareholders being present.

The object of the meeting was for the purpose of considering and, if thought fit, passing the following resolutions:

1. That the following be added to the Articles of Association:

Article XVII paragraph 14 "The directors may from time to time, with the sanction of the company in general meeting, declare a bonus or dividend to be paid to the members in proportion to their shares out of the reserve fund or out of any other accumulated profits for the time being of the company, and with the like consent may also declare that such bonus or dividend may be appropriated in payment of any calls upon new shares to be allotted to the existing shareholders upon any duly authorized increase of capital."

2. That the capital of the company be increased by the sum of \$112,500, divided into 15,000 shares of \$7.50 each, and that the directors be authorized to allot such shares pro rata among the existing shareholders according to the number of shares for which they may on the 9th day of November, 1904, be registered in the proportion of three new shares for every complete two shares held by them on that date.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen.—This extraordinary meeting has been called for the purpose of obtaining your sanction to increase our capital, and as we propose to Capitalise our Reserve Fund we were advised by the

[November 14, 1904]

Company's Solicitors that our Articles of Association did not give us the power to do so, hence the reason for asking you to alter the Articles accordingly. This extra capital is required to enable us to work and develop your business, and instead of issuing new shares at a premium we propose to retain our profits for last year and absorb the amount standing at credit of reserve fund. These amounts will not approximate the proposed increase, but for many years your directors have adopted an extremely careful policy by writing down assets to a very low level. This policy has its drawbacks, as were we called upon at any time to replace our stock and buildings we should find it would cost about three times the amount they are valued in our books, and your Directors consider that they should be written up to equal the extra amount of capital required, and that in future any amount placed to reserve should be invested so as to be easily realizable should circumstances necessitate. You will notice we recommend that the capital should be raised to \$187,500 by the issue of 15,000 new shares of an equal value to the old, that will make it in all 25,000 shares of \$6 paid up and a call of \$1.50 or a total call of \$37,500 should it ever be required. The company has seen many vicissitudes, and in order to safeguard your interests for the future, we wish to place it on such a footing that in the event of disease appearing on our farms we shall be in the position to restock it. For the last few years we have been extremely fortunate in this respect, and whilst we trust our good fortune will continue, we cannot be blind to the fact that our business is a risky one, also that the fresh milk supply of the Colony is largely dependent on this Company's resources and it behoves us to be prepared for every emergency for our own interests as well as that of the community.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the first resolution.

Mr. G. H. Potts had much pleasure in seconding the motion. He wished to remark that the shareholders should consider the advisability of writing up the permanent assets, which were very much undervalued rather than writing up cattle which were undervalued, but subject to epidemic. The permanent assets were not subject to violent fluctuations, but cattle had suffered a great deal from epidemic. They should therefore write up the permanent assets in future and have a special reserve against cattle.—The resolution was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN proposed and Mr. WICKHAM seconded the adoption of the second resolution, which was agreed to.

TRADE MARKS.

At the meeting of the foreign Ministers at Peking regarding trade marks regulations Mr. Uchida, the Japanese Minister, and Dr. Mumml, the German Minister, maintained their respective views and would not give way, and the British Minister, Sir Ernest Satow, is mediating between the two Ministers. The Editor of the *Eastern Times*, commenting on the news, says: The German Minister argues that (1) the fees for registration are too high, (2) the classification of goods is too minute, (3) Chinese officials do not know how to operate the regulations, (4) the date of enforcement is too soon. However these reasons given by the German Minister are only the apparent ones, and the real reason for the German objection is that all the goods imported by Germany to China are merely imitations of foreign goods other than German, and the Germans are using many trade marks similar to the genuine goods, and in case the present regulations come into force the German trade in China will be greatly affected; and that is the actual reason why the German Minister wishes to postpone the enforcement of the regulations for a year or at least for six months if necessary. Again the German Minister objects to the fact that the regulations have been compiled by a Japanese expert and are more convenient for the Japanese than anybody else. The Japanese Minister maintains the view that the Japanese merchants have already sent in applications which were in the hands of the Chinese Authorities on the day of the operation of the regulations, namely on the 23rd October, and the matter cannot be postponed in any case.

The affair of trade marks regulations is merely a matter of the internal administration of China, and it is not a matter for the interference of the Powers, etc.

THE CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

The Chinese *Eastern Times* of Shanghai learns from Peking that an American named Bash is at present in the capital trying to get the Chinese Government's consent to allow him and the syndicate he represents to take over the construction of the Yuch-Han, or Canton-Hankow Railway, from the American China Development Company. The privilege of constructing this line will thus still remain in the hands of Americans—as originally intended by the Chinese—and he will very likely obtain the Government's consent, in view of the agitation now going on in Canton, where there is strong opposition amongst the gentry and wealthy merchants in the South against giving the construction of the line into the hands of Belgians.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

REPRESENTATION BY THE CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE.

We have received from the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce a copy of the correspondence which has passed between the Chambers of Commerce and the foreign Representative at Peking on the subject of China's currency. The first letter reads as follows:

HONGKONG, 28th May, 1904.

SIR.—I have the honour to refer you to the correspondence which passed last year between your Chamber and the Hongkong Chamber in relation to the presentation of a petition to the Diplomatic Corps at Peking requesting that Body to urge on the Chinese Government the imperative necessity of taking steps to establish a uniform National Coinage throughout China as a first step towards the institution of currency arrangements of a less fluctuating character than those at present in use.

The importance of not allowing this matter to pass into oblivion was referred to by the members of this Chamber at their recent Annual Meeting, and my Committee are anxious to know whether your Chamber is willing to make further joint representations to the Diplomatic Body at Peking with the object of urging it to a course of action of a more determined nature than a mere expression of sympathy as was the case last year.

Awaiting the favour of an early reply.—I have, &c.

A. R. LOWE, Secretary.
LESLIE J. CUBITT, Esq., Secretary, General Chamber of Commerce, Shanghai.

The Secretary of the Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce replied that his Committee were fully in accord with the Hongkong Committee in thinking it desirable to keep the question of currency reform constantly before the Diplomatic Body at Peking, and he sent for consideration a draft of letter, having for its object the awakening of the Diplomatic Body to the necessity for definite action.

This letter was slightly amended by the Hongkong Committee to meet their views, and they suggested that a copy should be forwarded to each member of the Diplomatic Body. The letter was as follows:

(Enclosure.)

SIR.—In September of last year, we, the undersigned Chambers of Commerce, had the honour to address Your Excellency on the subject of the instability of exchange and the pressing need for the prompt introduction into China of remedial measures.

In the Memorial setting forth our views, we ventured to emphasize the importance of the Diplomatic Corps urging upon the Chinese Government the imperative necessity of their taking in hand without delay the establishment of a uniform National Coinage as provided for by Treaty.

The acknowledgment of the receipt of the Memorial which we had the honour to receive from Your Excellency in the following October was all that could be desired as an expression of appreciation of, and sympathy with, the object

we had in view, but nearly a year having elapsed without it being apparent that any material result may be looked for, we are constrained again to broach the subject with the object of finding out whether further representations on the strength of this letter from the Foreign Commercial Bodies in China, made through Your Excellency to the Chinese Government, will enable some assurance of a more tangible nature than that at present received being readily available in reply.

It would appear to us that the Chinese Government are not fully alive to the necessity of carrying out their Treaty obligations in this matter, and that the Treaty Powers are justified in bringing some pressure to bear in order to ensure the due observance of the same.

—We have,

CHAIRMAN, Shanghai General Chamber of Commerce.

CHAIRMAN, Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.

CHAIRMAN, Tientsin General Chamber of Commerce.

To His Excellency Baron CZIKANN, Minister for Austria-Hungary and Doyen of the Diplomatic Corps, Peking.

The reply of the British Minister to this memorial has already appeared in the *Daily Press*. The American Minister's reply was of a purely formal character, and the Spanish Minister promised to support the movement. No replies from the other Ministers apparently have yet been received.

INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE AT SHANGHAI.

The annual meeting of the International Institute of Shanghai was held at the French Municipal Hall on October 28th. H.E. Lü Hai-huan was in the chair, and there were present some twenty or more of the leading Chinese of the Settlement. Foreign supporters of the Institute did not turn up so numerously, but among those in the room were Dr. Timothy Richard, the Rev. C. E. Darwent, Messrs. C. Leavenworth, R. W. Little, H. Morse, G. E. Tucker, and E. D. van Walree.

A Chinese gentleman asked if any further contributions had been received towards the Taels 3,000 yet required for the land.

Dr. Reid replied that promises had been received from several of the Guilds which would cover this sum.

The questioner then asked if Dr. Reid would use his influence to get the foreigners to raise the Taels 60,000 wanted for the building, and understood to be provided for by them.

Dr. Reid replied that he understood that his committees both in London and New York would undertake a money-raising campaign this autumn. Both were strong committees and he hoped they would be successful.

The Rev. C. E. Darwent expressed his complete sympathy with the idea of the Institute and his confidence that since it had survived so many disappointments and difficulties it would come through all right in the end. The idea seemed to be a right one. Classes and schools for the poorer Chinese were being established all over the Empire, and it appeared to be a wise thing to try and approach the mandarins as well, and to counteract the idea that to lift up one country it was necessary to depress another. It was to everyone's interest that China should be strong, and anything that encouraged her national life was worthy of support. Mr. Darwent suggested that the amount required for the building fund would look far less formidable if stated at £8,000 instead of at Taels 60,000. It was not really a very large sum for London, New York, and Shanghai to raise in co-operation; a successful bazaar with the aid of Chinese curios might easily bring in almost half of it.

The Chairman moved, Mr. Tucker seconded, and it was carried, that the report and accounts as presented be passed.

Dr. Richard, speaking in Chinese, remarked that the more quickly the Chinese raised their Taels 3,000 for the land, the more quickly the foreigners were likely to raise their Taels 60,000 for the building.

On the motion of Dr. Reid, seconded by Mr. Tucker, it was resolved to add to the Advisory Council the names of Bishop Bashford, Lord

Li, Messrs. Lemière, Henriot, and H. Keswick, and four Chinese gentlemen.

Dr Reid made a closing appeal for further help and a wider interest on the part of Chinese and foreigners alike. He pointed out that the details of the scheme were not his own, but those of a representative public meeting held a year and a half ago, which decided among other things that the Institute should be in Shanghai and the raising of the funds should be divided between Chinese and foreigners as already mentioned.—*N.C. Daily News.*

THE COTTON CROP.

On the Han the cotton crop is a good one. The demand by Japanese merchants for cotton during the last several years has encouraged the local farmers to sow cotton largely. This year the harvest is abundant. For some time past the Japanese buyers have been to various centres and purchased in large quantities. In former years much of the cotton crop was sent West. Now, however, it mostly all goes East. During a night trip on a freshet-battered passenger launch, I met one of the Japanese buyers going to the Fairy Reach Town. His firm has several such buyers, who are alert, and directly cotton is expected on the local markets they visit them early and purchase all raw cotton possible. Up to all Jobu Chinaman's tricks, they visit before John has had time to moisten the raw material with water of any kind in any way. In this way discoloration, as well as increased weight, are prevented. Once purchased, it is packed in large bales and shipped by native craft to Hankow. Here it is ginned by Japanese machines worked by Chinese labourers. Then packed in bales, bound with iron bands, and shipped to Japan. There it is prepared for the Chinese market and sent back as foreign yarn. Later it is possible the whole process may be accomplished in Hankow. The Japanese firm seem to pay their buyers well. The buyers' only complaint seems to be the difficulty of getting Hankow native merchants to work at reasonable hours. The early morning and forenoon is waste. Those concerned do not begin trading until late in the day. I have heard that bankers and others have more or less the same difficulty. The Japanese merchant is trying to bring about a more satisfactory state of things. Will he succeed where others have either failed or ceased to strive?

Native Notes.

THE S.S. "KASHING."

Apropos the news of the damage sustained by the s.s. *Kashing* through contact with a drifting mine near the Shantung Promontory, the Weihaiwei correspondent of the *N. C. Daily News* writes: A visit to the ship and a sight of the hole in her port bow afford convincing proof of the peril she ran of complete destruction. The force of the explosion was directed upward, and completely wrecked the compartment in the forecastle occupied by the crew. The deaths of both the Chinamen must have been instantaneous. One body only—fearfully mangled—was found, and it is surmised that the other fell into the sea through the hole caused by the explosion. One man has his thigh badly broken and is in the hospital here in Dr. Hickin's care. The injuries of the other occupants of the forecastle at the time of the accident are comparatively trivial.

It was very fortunate that the ship was so lightly laden and that the collision bulkhead near the bow was practically intact. It is highly probable that the mine had lost some of its explosive power, as, in the opinion of some here, the ship encountering a large and new mine would be much shattered and sink almost instantly.

The order recently issued by one or two companies, directing captains of coasting steamers to navigate these waters in daylight only, has, it seems, been rescinded. A little consideration would show that the regulation is more necessary now than in the summer months. In summer prevalent winds are southerly and drifting mines would be blown away from this coast. But in autumn and winter we have frequent gales, and the tendency would

be for these terrible engines of destruction to drift towards the Promontory.

It is to be hoped that captains of steamers will again be forbidden to travel after dark in the Gulf of Pechili for the present.

Our contemporary understands that this has been done.

THE HONGKONG NURSING INSTITUTION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of this Institution was held in the City Hall on the 10th inst. forenoon. There were present, Dr. Jordan, Chairman, Dr. Müller, Hon. W. J. Gresson, Messrs. H. E. Pollock, K. C., L. Gibbs, H. W. Fraser, G. W. F. Playfair, E. Osborne, Murray Stewart, A. Fuchs, Brooke Smith, White, and B. Layton, and Mesdames Siebs, L. A. M. Johnson, Playfair, Fuchs, Gompertz and Wheeley.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The Annual Report presented read as follows:—Nurses Hair and Gray having decided to terminate their agreement with the institution, to two nurses have been obtained from home to replace them, and the committee consider themselves fortunate in having secured the services of Nurses Peacock and Farquharson. The nursing staff engagements average 552 days during the year. The working account, including a balance of \$140.75 brought forward from last year, shows a profit of \$281.66, and the guarantee fund an increase of \$798.29. It is satisfactory to note that the working account balance keeps on the right side. The addition of so much to the guarantee fund is exceptional. As without encroaching on the guarantee fund, the Institution had not the money to pay the cost of the passages, necessitated by the change in the nursing staff, the committee therefore decided to give a subscription ball, the profits from which, \$1,468.55, exceeded by \$43.29 the cost of the passage. The institution was, however, fortunate in not having to pay one half passage in consequence of one of the late staff accepting an appointment in the East. This is one item accounting for the increase; another is the generosity of some individual subscribers who have not considered themselves bound by the limit of \$10 fixed as a subscription. Had it not been for these circumstances we should not have been able to add the \$600 which in the last two reports has been pointed out as annually necessary to maintain untouched the principal sum of this fund. The Guarantee Fund now includes \$3,000 in the Hongkong Club 6 per cent. debentures, \$12,000 in Hongkong Hotel 6 per cent. debentures, \$1,000 in Fixed Deposit in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, while the balance \$1,775.41 is to its credit in Current Account. In accordance with the amendment which was carried at the last general meeting on the question of the nurses, the committee wrote to the Government asking if it were possible for our nurses to be housed in the Victoria Hospital, Barker Road. The committee have now received a reply in which His Excellency regrets he is unable to give the committee the assistance which they have asked for in this matter. Mrs. Slade, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Dickson and Mrs. Tomes having resigned their places on the Committee, Mrs. Playfair, Mrs. Johnston, and Mrs. Hastings were elected in their places. In accordance with a resolution passed at the general meeting on July 4th, the following additional members were elected on the committee: Mr. Pollock, K.C., Dr. Müller and Mr. Gibbs. All the members of the committee, with the exception of Mrs. Siebs, who does not seek re-election, in accordance with the rules, beg now to tender their resignation, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election. The thanks of the Institution are due to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. H. W. Fraser, the Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. Pinckney, who has kindly audited the accounts. Dr. JORDAN said there were one or two points in the report to which would like to draw attention. The first was regarding the housing of nurses. That question the Government had declined to have anything to do with, and it now remained for the meeting to decide what further action they deemed necessary. The other point was with regard to the re-election of members. Dr. Stedman had left the Colony

for a holiday, but Dr. G. Montague Harston had consented to take his place. He regretted that Mrs. Siebs was going to leave, but Mrs. Fuchs had kindly consented to take her place. One other member was required, and Mrs. Badeley had kindly consented to serve on the committee if elected.

Dr. JORDAN then proposed the adoption of the report. Mr. OSBORNE seconded, and the proposition was carried.

HOUSING OF NURSES.

Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., stated that the question of the scheme of erecting a special building for nurses came before members at the last general meeting, and was postponed on his suggestion, in order to ascertain the views of the Government with regard to housing nurses in the hospital. He understood the Government were unable to do this, and therefore moved that the scheme which was before them at last meeting be now definitely rejected. He need say very few words in support of the motion. The proposals put before them were not of a satisfactory nature, and they did not put matters on a sound footing. All present would agree when he said the institute was now being run on sound lines, and they could not do better than stay as they were.

Mr. PLAYFAIR, in seconding the motion, said that as far as he could ascertain from the Hon. Secretary, the present position of the nurses was quite satisfactory. He did not think there was cause for friction in any way. If there were any cause for friction between the doctors, he thought that the Secretary was to blame, and he could be removed. He (the Hon. Secretary) had the sole right to attend to the nurses' requirements and nobody else.

The motion was carried.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Dr. G. Montague Harston was elected President, and the retiring members of committee were re-elected with the following exceptions: Mrs. Fuchs was elected in place of Mrs. Siebs, who did not seek re-election, and Mrs. Badeley was enrolled as a member.

HONGKONG.

Gunner V. De Marney has been permitted to resign from the Volunteers.

A fine kite has selected the Clock Tower as its home. It is preying on the tame pigeons belonging to Chinese in the vicinity.

At Wing Lok Street on the 5th inst. a Chinese boy had a kettle of boiling water thrown over him, necessitating his removal to the Civil Hospital. He was badly scalded.

It was resolved by the Governor in Council that the resumption of the property known as Kowloon Inland Lots Nos. 69a, 79, 80 and 81 is required for a public purpose.

Last week's return of communicable diseases shows one Chinese case of diphtheria, and three fatal Chinese cases of enteric fever. Two Europeans from Weihaiwei also had enteric.

A Chinese woman, about 76 years of age, was knocked down on November 6th in Queen's Road by a ricksha coolie. She was removed to hospital and is not expected to live. The coolie has not been identified.

Last month the *Times* said that the marriage arranged between Mr. Lennox G. Bird, son of late Colonel F. Vincent G. Bird, and Margaret Stuart, only daughter of Sir John Cockburn, would take place at Hongkong in November.

A Chinese woman was on November 5th run over by a bicycle. She was brought to the Civil Hospital, where eight stitches were put in her leg. She narrowly escaped having the patella broken, which might have crippled her for life.

Dr. F. O. Stedman left for England on a holiday by the P. & O. s.s. *Coromandel*. H.E. the Governor has appointed Dr. A. Rennie, M.B., to be a member of the Medical Board, and to serve as secretary in place of Dr. F. O. Stedman, resigned.

The unfortunate little ship *Evie J. Ray* has changed hands, as the result of litigation. An order was recently made by the Chief Justice that the vessel was to be sold and the proceeds deposited with the Registrar of the Court, Mr. A. Seth. The vessel has been sold to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire for, we understand, \$10,000, and the money has been handed in to the Registrar.

November 14, 1904.

The contraband case at the Supreme Court being a particularly interesting one Mr. Collier, Attorney-General of Singapore, and the French Consul here were invited to sit in Court next to His Lordship.

It is said that the committee of the Coronation Fund have decided to expend the balance of the fund, about \$15,000, in erecting a statue of Queen Alexandra; if the amount is found sufficient to purchase a statue suitable to place alongside that of the King, to be presented by Sir Paul Chater.

Fire broke out on the 6th inst. on the second floor of No. 22, Wellington Street. Chinese residing there had placed red candles and joss sticks in a little altar on the staircase. One of these fell and set fire to the steps. The flames were put out by the inmates of the house, there being very slight damage.

There are now practically no sanitary measures adopted against Hongkong. Manila-Hongkong vessels may bring steerage passengers, and, if the health of Hongkong be satisfactory, may proceed direct to Manila after 1st November. Fresh vegetables prohibited. Siam—Inspection at Paknam; Newchwang—Importation of rags, waste paper, hair, earth and manure from Hongkong prohibited.

In connection with the departure to Rangoon of the Rev. Thomas Wright, it is reported that a few friends of seamen have contributed the stipend of a harbour chaplain for one year, but the Missions to Seamen Society has every hope that others will contribute the stipend for successive years. The other expenses for boats, &c., will be met locally by residents in Burma and friends of the officers of the ships benefited.

It is said that instructions have been received at Hongkong to the effect that H.M. ships *Algerine*, *Phoenix*, *Rosario*, *Bramble*, and *Britomart* have been ordered to proceed to this port for the purpose of being paid off. The officers and ships' companies will return to England in merchant steamers, but the men required for the care and maintenance of the vessels in reserve will be retained from the ships' companies. They will be laid up in the reserve at Hongkong.

On Nov. 8th night a small fire occurred on the Indo-China s.s. *Wo Sana*, then lying off Jardine's Wharf. The fire broke out in the second officer's cabin. Flames burst through the port hole and set fire to the overhead awning, which, with the spars, was burnt down; the deck, also, was slightly charred. The second officer's cabin was completely gutted. The crew set to work and subdued the flames in a very short time. The Fire Float arrived after the fire was extinguished.

At the expiration of three months from the 29th ult. the following companies will, unless cause is shown to the contrary, be struck off the register and the companies will be dissolved, viz.—The China Ginger Manufacturing Co., Ltd.; The Bamie Fibre Co., Ltd.; The Wei-hai-wei Mining Syndicate, Ltd.; The Hongkong Marina, Ltd.; The Stoneley Gold Prospecting Co., Ltd.; The Hongkong Building Materials Co., Ltd.; The Heung Sing Steamboat Co., Ltd.

The Hongkong Chess Club has the honour now of H.E. the Governor's patronage. Mr. Thomas Swaby, the acting hon. sec., on behalf of the President (Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C.) and Committee, invited the Governor to become patron, pointing out that the Club was over ten years old, and had an honourable record. His Excellency replied on Saturday: "Dear Sir,—I accept with pleasure the kind suggestion of Mr. Pollock and the Committee of the Hongkong Chess Club that I should become patron of the Club.—Yours faithfully, M. NATHAN."

Dr. F. H. Swan, captain of the Kowloon Cricket Club, has seen the Hon. P. N. Jones, Director of Public Works, regarding the allotment of a cricket ground for the new club, at King's Park, Kowloon. The Hon. P. N. Jones very kindly gave Dr. Swan the option of two places. The first turf will now soon be laid.

A Chinaman named Wong Pin was removed from Ching Wan to the Yaumati Mortuary, supposed to have been murdered. A woman informed the Police that she had seen a man beating him. On making a post mortem examination, however, Dr. MacFarlane, Medical Officer of Health at Kowloon, found that the man's death was due to plague. This is the first case of plague reported from this vicinity.

After a fight in Queen's Road on Nov. 8th an Indian was admitted to the Civil Hospital with a nasty wound above the temple. It appears that a Spaniard attacked him with a knife, inflicting a wound about four and a half inches in length. The police are reticent about it.

A good story reached us Nov. 9th when the mail from Home came in. The proverbial London bus conductor was the hero. A cab had collided with the Putney bus, and the conductor scolded the careless driver with these words: "Call yourself a kebman? You ain't fit to command a Rooshian gunboat."

The Masonic Quadrille Club held their first dance in the banqueting chamber of the Masonic Hall, Zetland Street, on the 7th inst. The arrangements carried out by Bro. Harry Wolfe and the Committee, were very good. Dancing commenced at nine o'clock, about fifty couples being present. Bros. J. J. Sibbit and W. H. E. Smith (treasurer) carried out the duties of M. Cs. with credit. Bro. Jenkins (violin) and Mr. Fielding (piano) supplied the music. Bro. Eagleton acted as Steward, presiding over the ladies' buffet. Other members of the committee present were Bros. A. P. Goodwin (secretary), W. B. Ruse, Summers and T. Swaby. Bro. Vanstone was responsible for the excellent condition of the floor.

The *N.Y. Daily News* thus tenders the amende to our local, much-maligned postal officials:—We remarked not long since that the gentleman at Hongkong who looks after the mails for the British navy is much more energetic than the Postmaster-General in Hongkong, the occasion of this remark being that the navy received a certain French mail here some days before the general mail arrived here. But the fault, we find, was not with Hongkong but with Bombay. The French mail for the navy came via Bombay and Negapatam, and was placed on board the B. I. S. *Purnea* at Madras. The rest of the mail was shipped at Bombay on the steamer *Capri*, which reached Hongkong only three days after the British India steamer.

The body of the late Mr. Chan A Tong, whose death notice appears this issue, was buried on the 9th inst. Many friends were present at the funeral. Mr. Chan A Tong has been the leading contractor in the Colony for many years. It was he who contracted to build the Tytan Reservoir, one of the greatest undertakings in the Colony. He contracted with Messrs. Punchard and Lowther regarding the Naval Yard extension; built Central Market; and contracted for the new Post Office and the new Law Courts. At one time, he was reputed to be a very wealthy man but subsequently it is said he lost large sums of money in shipping business. He was a quarry farmer for many years, supplying a very great part of the granite used for public works. He was 59 years of age.

FAR EASTERN ITEMS.

The Scottish Trust Loan Company of Ceylon, Ltd., has paid a final dividend of 7½ per cent., making a total of 10 per cent. for the year. A sum of £1,884 is carried forward.

It is reported from Canton that there has been a sudden subsidence of the line at a place called Laoshukang, in Sanshui district, on the Canton-Sanshui line. No lives were lost.

Puck says that missionary effort in Japan has received a fresh impetus from the fact that some of the recent naval victories of the Mikado's forces have been won by converted crusaders.

The *Kobe Chronicle* has seen a copy of a telegram despatched from Yokohama to Kobe, marked urgent, and paid for at the higher rate. It was sent on the 20th October and was delivered in Kobe on the 25th—five days later.

They are having "skating-dinners" at Raffles, Singapore. The *Straits Times* says that a large crowd of diners skated about after dinner until eleven o'clock on October 29th, both ladies and gentlemen. The proprietors of the hotel provided the skates.

A Japanese who recently posted a petition of appeal in a civil suit, and registered it, is suing the Japanese Minister of Communications for Y5,000 damages, because the document was despatched as an ordinary letter, and arrived a day too late for leave of appeal to be granted.

The *Straits Times* regrets to announce the death of Mr. R. V. Boswell at Malacca. Mr. Boswell was in the P.W.D. in the Straits Settlements for over twenty-five years and retired on pension in 1895. He had been ill for about six months. The deceased, who was only 49 years of age, leaves a widow and eight children.

It is rather confusing to read that the Shanghai Municipal Council is anxious to do all in its power to suppress the gambling evil. This was mentioned in connection with the prosecution of a "hotel" which certainly has an evil reputation. But on the other hand, every hotel and club has a race lottery, and the respectable papers are full of "tips."

A Tientsin despatch states that under recommendation of Viceroy Yuan Shih-Kai the Walpup will appoint Taotsi Liu Yuk-lin, Chevalier of the Order of Leopold, to be Chinese Consul-General at Johannesburg, in view of the large number of Chinese labourers at the Rand. Liu Taotai is also a returned American student, and in 1902 was Chinese Charge d'affaires at Brussels, Belgium, where he was a great favourite with King Leopold.

A Peking letter reports that Viceroy Chang Chih-tung, not content with making hostile criticisms against the recommendations of Sir Robert Hart, already noted in these columns, has also presented a strong memorial to the Throne against Professor Jenks' financial recommendations for a gold standard for China, declaring that such a step would on the contrary cause financial disaster to the country.

A deputy of the Commissioner of the Imperial silk looms at Soochow recently left for Peking, in charge of a large number of leather trunks containing no less than three hundred yellow satin, silk, and gauze-embroidered robes, intended for His Majesty Kuang Hsu's sole use during the next twelve months. Each robe was of course elaborately embroidered, or richly damasked with the Imperial emblem of "five-clawed" dragons.

H.E. Chou Fu, Acting Viceroy-designate of the Liangkiang provinces, has sent up a memorial to the Throne declining the honour of his appointment on the ground that he fears that his ability is not equal to the successful ruling of so many important provinces. Concerning the appointment of Chou-fu as Viceroy of Liangkiang, and his subsequent plea of unfitness for such a responsible post, the *Shanghai Mercury*'s translator says this last is always done in such cases as a matter of form.

It is rumoured at Canton that recently large quantities of rifles, with the necessary ammunition, are being imported into the Kwangtung province, and are finding their way into the interior under transit passes. In the unsettled condition of the north of this province, and the state of things in Kwangsi, the introduction of such large quantities—it is stated that not less than fifty thousand have been imported—unless they are for the use of the imperial forces, must be regarded with suspicion, if not with apprehension.

Professor Sir Robert K. Douglas, lecturing on "Christianity in China," said: "The task of conveying the knowledge of Christianity to the Chinese had been a long and difficult one, taking them back to the sixth century." Later, he said: "There could not be any doubt that things were moving in the direction of knowledge and incidentally of Christianity." These two statements taken together do something to illustrate the "conservatism" of the Chinese. After nearly fourteen hundred years of missionary enterprise, there is a perceptible movement towards knowledge, an incidental deviation towards Christianity. Wonderful!

For over a year the *Straits Times* has aired the grievance of Li Min, a coolie who was imprisoned and persecuted by the governing authorities of British North Borneo. Mr. Henniker Heaton, M.P., asked questions about it in the House. Our contemporary now announces that the man has been released, and compensated with two hundred dollars. Our contemporary comments: "We only hope that this enquiry and its outcome—regarding which we have so far learned absolutely nothing official from the Borneo authorities—may be the harbinger of a good time coming when the Empire will take over the administration of the Colony from the hands of the Chartered Company."

Speaking of Christianity in Japan, the Rev. Herbert Moore last month announced that there had been a most serious leakage—"estimated actually at 62 per cent."—among the Protestant bodies.

Detective-Sergeant Gilfillan was one of the smartest crime investigators that the Shanghai Police force had. The *N.C. Daily News* reports that he retired from the service on October 31st, and pays a similar tribute to his abilities. As he is quite a young man, there ought to be some explanation of this retirement.

The Shanghai magistrate, Mr. Wang, left for Soochow suddenly on October 28th, under instructions from H.E. Tuan Fang, Governor in that city. There is a report in mandarin circles that his Worship has been called to answer some charges of misgovernment made against him to the Governor.

It is notified in the Indian Army Orders that the Government of India have sanctioned officers of the Indian service in military employ appearing at the examinations in the Yunnanese language held under rules notified from time to time by the Government of Burma. On passing a successful examination an officer will be entitled to a reward of Rs. 1,000. No officer who had obtained a reward for passing in the Chinese colloquial examination will, however, be eligible.

The Indo-Ceylon Railway is hung up indefinitely, for we notice, says the *Ceylon Times*, that the Committee on railway projects in India has decided that immediate action is unnecessary to effect broad gauge connection between India and Ceylon. The scheme was only practicable and pressing where so soaring an optimist as Sir West Ridgeway was concerned. Just as he, in poetic fancy, peopled the line of the Northern Railway with thriving villages and smiling populations, so he had no difficulty in seeing railway connection between Ceylon and India an accomplished fact, and never tired of telling us how he would watch its progress.

The Siam Syndicate, Limited, has been registered with a capital of £2,000, in £1 shares. The object is to acquire freehold and other lands, mines, and mineral properties and rights in Siam and elsewhere, to prospect, examine, and explore diamond, gold, silver, copper, coal, iron, and other mines, and to carry on the business of miners, prospectors, explorers, dealers in gold, silver, diamonds, and other precious metals and stones, farmers, smelters, &c. No initial public issue. The first directors are F. S. Clarke, H. D. Blyth, and W. C. Puchard. Remuneration as fixed by the company. Registered office: 34, Lime Street, London, E.C.

One of the minor sights of Colombo just now, says the *Times of Ceylon*, is a beggar on horseback—a veritable refutation of the old-world belief of that species of humanity. He is an Afghan, and in his gaudy turban, dark blue great coat, and other articles of apparel, he is a great sight! The little pony, however, carries very much more than the beggar and his clothes. It is a case of *multum in parvo*, as a wag once put it, for the beggar carries with him a rolled mat (so that he will never be in want of decent bedding!) and a suspicious-looking bag which possibly contains the rest of his wardrobe, and his cooking utensils. He has a voluble voice, and his gibberish when a likely patron comes his way is astounding! The funniest sight of all is when he gallops behind a ricksha, pouring forth his rhetoric, his mat and his bag keeping up a wavy accompaniment the whole while.

Shu-Kia-tian, chief interpreter at the Chinese Legation at Brussels, was married recently to a beautiful Belgian girl, Mlle. Anna Bona, the daughter of one of the chief officials at the General Post Office. The entire staff of the Chinese Legation was present. At the wedding banquet which followed there was a large assembly of guests, and the first secretary of the Legation made a would-be funny speech in proposing the health of the happy couple. The "Yellow Peril," he said, did exist for the Chinese intended to carry off as wives as many pretty European girls as they could induce to accept them, and, moreover, they were resolved to make those girls happy, thus entering into a terrible competition with European sweethearts and husbands. The Singapore *Free Press* comments: What the new Mrs. Shu-Kia-tian will think when she runs up against a possible, rather a probable, Mrs. Shu-Kia-tian in Peking, may be left to the imagination.

There was rather an exciting incident just before the P. & O. *China* left Colombo harbour on the night of October 23rd. The *Banshee* with the last lot of passengers from ashore had come to the ship's side, and as the result of a swell at the time the side of the launch got under the bottom of the gangway. Quarter-Master Pocock, of the *China*, who had come down to meet the passengers, was thrown into the water and, falling between the bottom of the ladder (to a part of which he clung) and the launch, he was in a very serious predicament. Mr. Caldwell, the chief officer, however, came to his rescue in the nick of time, for just as the Quarter-Master was extricated the launch banged up against the gangway again. The escape of the Quarter-Master was a very narrow one.

A Chinese Imperial Decree dated 30th October ran as follows: At the archery competitions of unemployed members of the Imperial clan held yesterday, Shou Peng and twenty-four others who hit the targets five times, both on horseback and on foot, are given the posts of Imperial Body guardsmen of the 3rd grade; Shan Mou and nine others who hit the targets on foot four times and once on horseback are given the posts of 4th grade Imperial Body guardsmen; those who hit the targets on foot four times are given each one piece of superior satin and ten taels, while those hitting targets on foot three times only are given five taels each. The *N.C. Daily News* translator notes: These antiquated competitions are merely a pretence on the part of the good-natured Emperor to help the numerous Imperial clansmen who have no means of livelihood beyond their quarterly pittances doled out by the Imperial Household Department.

TRADE ITEMS.

The Governor has given his assent, on behalf of the King, to the Ordinance to give effect to Article VIII. of the Brussels Sugar Convention, 1902.

The Green Island Cement Company in Hong Kong is not equal to the demand on the "Portland Cement" manufactured at its factory in the Settlement.—It can sell all it makes at five dollars a cask of 375 lbs. *Indian Engineering*.

In spite of the war, and consequent decrease of profits, the directors of the Oriental Hotel Co., Ltd., Kobe, have paid the customary dividend of twelve per cent., and carried 5,372 yen to the reserve. This was because they had "made handsome provision for the future." If the war continue, next year's dividend will be less.

A project is on foot at Manila for the purpose of organizing a new bank which is to be known as the Banco de Filipinas. It is to be a purely Filipino institution founded upon Filipino capital, amounting for the present to \$300,000 Philippine currency. Later the capital will be increased to \$5,000,000, and the bank will be made a strictly agricultural bank.

The Chinese Minister in Seoul, H.E. Hsu Tai-sheng, has sent a dispatch note to Viceroy Li Hsing-jiu asking his Excellency to issue a proclamation in Shanghai warning Chinese merchants going to Corea not to enter Corean non-treaty ports to sell their goods, and notifying the Viceroy that a regulation has been passed that Chinese traders found guilty in future of such trespass will be heavily fined and their goods confiscated.

In common with many other industries that feed the country's revenue, the mercantile marine of Japan, instead of showing a decrease, shows an actual increase, since the outbreak of war. In January last there were 1,092 vessels under the Japanese flag, aggregating 660,318 tons, while at the end of August the number of vessels was 1,179, and the tonnage 731,558. Of these ships 522 were under a hundred tons burthen.

At a special meeting of the Tientsin Chamber of Commerce on the 25th October the following resolution was passed unanimously:—"That this meeting protests against the levying of fees for transit passes and huchaos, recently imposed by the Imperial Chinese Government, and that in the opinion of this meeting the charge is both illegal and detrimental to the development of the trade of the port, and the committee is instructed to do all in its power to procure immediate abolition."

The net value of Foochow imports in 1903 was Hk. Tls. 8,059,007 (foreign) and 2,049,654 (native). In 1902 it was 6,649,695 and 1,613,203 respectively, and in 1901, 6,361,914 and 2,115,239. Amoy imports for 1903 were (foreign) 8,853,945 and (native) 5,568,673. In 1902 the figures were 10,059,692 and 4,855,629 respectively; while in 1901 they were 7,555,255 and 5,138,624.

On the 8th inst. Messrs W. S. Bailey & Co. launched from their Yard at Kowloon Bay the second of two tugboats for Manilk owners. The vessel is eighty feet long and fitted with powerful compound condensing engines. The launching ceremony was gracefully performed by Miss Rodger, who, as the vessel left the ways, christened her the *Hawk*. The construction of both these tugboats has been supervised by Messrs Goddard and Douglas.

A Foreign office report on the foreign trade of China in 1903 says it was disappointing, although the value of the total trade increased by 3½ per cent. There was a decrease of 27 per cent. in the quantity of plain cottons imported, and an increase in value of imports mainly due to larger purchases of Indian opium, to meet shortage in native crop. The value of cotton yarn import was £8,814,820, forming 52 per cent. of total cotton products imported.

A private despatch from the capital reports (says the "Native Notes" writer in the *N.C. Daily News*) the arrival of the Dalai Lama in Peking, having come from Haining, Kansu province, whether he had fled from Lhassa upon the approach there of the British expedition. The Buddhist Pontiff entered Peking on the 17th ultmo, riding in a large sedan chair covered with yellow satin and carried by sixteen bearers. He was escorted by some five hundred priests belonging to the great Lama temple in Peking, where he is at present residing.

The trade between Burmah and Southern Siam for the year ending March 31 shows the large increase of 279.52 per cent., principally in imports of cattle, elephants, and silk piece-goods, and in exports of jewellery and silver. This revival of trade is largely due to the tranquillity which has succeeded the recent unrest in Northern Siam. The restoration of quiet revived trade also with the latter country, the returns showing an increase of 36.41 per cent. Cattle and elephants are the principal items of increase. Teak timber, though showing a decrease in quantity, shows an increase in value of 11.1 per cent. over 1901-2, and of 45 per cent. over 1902-3, due to the partial closing of the Siamese forests and a growing demand.

In his trade report for the year 1903, the Commissioner of Customs at Shasi gives the following figures, obtained from one of the chief cotton districts of that neighbourhood, showing to what extent cotton gins are gaining favour with the people there. In 1901 the cotton gins at Chiang-k'ou and its vicinity numbered 48, in 1902 they increased to 50, and during 1903 1,290 have been in use. Those imported are all of Japanese origin, but rollers &c., are now made by the Chinese at Shanghai, and obtained from there for replacing worn-out parts. The price of a complete machine at Shasi is from Hk. Tls. 25 to Hk. Tls. 90, which is about double what it costs in Japan. They are worked by one person, who is able to clean 300 catties of cotton per day, or more than ten times the quantity that could be separated from the seeds by hand-sorting.

Mr. A. C. Lambert, American Vice-Consul at Tamsui, reports: "The question whether or not foreign vessels may load cargo and embark passengers at the Formosan ports of Tamsui, Kelung, Anping, and Takao for the ports of Nagasaki, Kobe, and Yokohama in Japan, was brought up last year by the British Government. After some delay the Japanese Government has decided that the above-mentioned Formosan ports may retain such privileges as they enjoyed under the Chinese regime, when there was no bar to their trading with the open ports of Japan, and that it is permitted to foreign bottoms to load cargo and embark passengers at these ports for Japanese ports. It is to be noted, however, that foreign vessels are not permitted to trade between the several open ports in Formosa. This question will be brought up, I am given to understand, in the near future, most probably by the British authorities."

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

Messrs. Welch, Lewis & Co. of Shanghai, in their Circular dated 31st October, state:—Black Teas.—No business has been put through since the 17th instant, the settlements reported were made before our last circular. Stock consists principally of common grades, which the Teamen are holding for prices well over buyers' ideas at present. Green Teas.—Pingsuey.—A fair demand has existed for chops of good Medium quality at Tls. 27-28 per picul, shewing a steady market; lower grades are weak with only a small enquiry. Country Teas.—There has been a demand for good quality Teas, and prices have remained steady. Very little has been done in Medium grades and rates are weaker, but no quoteable decline has taken place. Common Teas are in large stock, Teamen have been forcing sales and the small business put through, shews a decline of Tls. 1-1½ per picul since our last advices. Local Packed.—Teamen are finding it almost impossible to sell these Teas in chops, and are lining them out. Stock is of very coarse quality. Hyson.

During the interval a demand has sprung up, "Fine" quality Teas have sold at Tls. 50-60 per picul, shewing a rise of Tls. 3-5 per picul, Medium quality have been dealt in at Tls. 38-45 shewing a steady market. Common Teas are weak. Foong Mees and Sou Mees.—The market for "Good" quality Teas continues to be strong, "Good" Foong Mees selling at Tls. 45-55, and Sou Mees at Tls. 62-70 per picul. The Stock is small of Medium quality and prices are unchanged. Fy-chow Foong Mees are selling slowly at Tls. 30-33, shewing a decline of Tls. 2 per picul. Total Settlements since 17th inst.:—23,613 half-chests. Total settlements since opening of market to date:—288,981 half-chests; stock, 27,513 half-chests. Last year's figures were:—Settlements 379,712 half-chests; stock, 65,439 half-chests. Settlements of Hyson and Young Hyson since opening of market to date:—Arrivals, 131,866 half-chests; settlements, 121,463 half-chests stock, 10,403 half-chests.

From commencement of Season the Export of Tea to Great Britain has been:—

	Black, lbs.	Dust, lbs.	Green, lbs.
Total to date, 1904.	25,463,745	574,927	1,908,269
" 1903..	7,330,879	—	3,166,071
" 1902..	5,102,733	—	2,920,081

From commencement of Season the export of Tea to the United States and Canada has been:—

	Black, lbs.	Green, lbs.
Total to date, 1904	6,235,908	12,600,401
" 1903	5,862,308	15,460,515
" 1902	9,535,721	14,968,295

From commencement of Season the Export of Tea to other European ports:—

	Black, lbs.	Brick, lbs.	Green, lbs.
Total to date, 1904	20,833,560	2,555,599	1,385,202
" 1903..	2,485,167	—	1,389,803
" 1902..	1,810,998	—	957,381

From commencement of Season the Export of Black Tea direct to Russia has been:—

	Total to date, 1904	854,667 lbs.
" 1903	12,388,860	"
" 1902	18,815,201	"

From commencement of Season the Export of Tea to Bombay and other ports has been:—

	Black, lbs.	Green, lbs.
Total to date, 1904	55,467	511,867
" 1903	137,336	787,868
" 1902	48,011	664,418

From commencement of Season the Export of Green Tea to Batoum and Novorossisk, &c., has been:—

	Green.
Total to date, 1904	4,699,998 lbs.
" 1903	9,598,133 "
" 1902	7,769,991 "

The Export of Tea to Russian Manchuria via Port Arthur, Newchwang and Tientsin has been:—

	Black, lbs.	Brick, lbs.	Green, lbs.	Dust, lbs.
1904..	3,207,735	15,412,145	114,667	153,284
1903..	32,415,433	25,807,334	2,017,255	109,333
1902..	28,488,762	5,496,670	2,271,823	655,297

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill and Son's Silk Circular, dated 29th October states:—The home markets are firm. Hold Kiling is quoted in London at 119 and in Lyons at Fcs. 32.75. Raw Silk.—Business has been on a small scale this week. The country markets are asking prices above home ideas. Gold Kiling is quoted at Tls. 570, but at this price no business has resulted. Yellow Silks.—Have been in fair demand this week. Stocks of best grades are very low and proportionately high prices are asked. Hand Filatures.—Very little business doing. Holders are firm in rates owing to the small quantity available for this season.

Steam Filatures.—Continental buyers still con-

tinute to take fair quantities of fine fixed steams. Waste Silk.—Business has been on a small scale, 50 Pcls Curries have changed hands at Tls. 84 and stocks of the material are almost exhausted. There are stocks of Pierced Cocoons, Tussah Waste, Long Shantung, B. Prisonets and Honan Waste, but there seems to be no enquiry for these goods at prices demanded.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 11th Nov.—The position of the market is nearly the same as when last reported.

Shekloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.30 to \$8.35 pc's.
Do. 2, White.....	7.40 to 7.45 "
Do. 1, Brown.....	5.90 to 5.95 "
Do. 2, Brown.....	5.75 to 5.80 "
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.25 to 8.35 "
Do. 2, White.....	7.30 to 7.35 "
Do. 1, Brown.....	5.70 to 5.75 "
Do. 2, Brown.....	5.55 to 5.60 "
Foochow Sugar Candy	12.45 to 12.50 "
Shekloong	10.40 to 10.45 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 11th Nov.—The prices are slightly declining, market being weak.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.25 to \$2.30
Round, good quality	2.30 to 2.35
Long	2.61 to 2.65
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2	2.30 to 2.35
" Garden, No. 1	2.40 to 2.45
" White	3.80 to 3.85
" Fine Cargo	4.00 to 4.05

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 10th November.—Quotations are:—

Allowance net. to 1 catty.	
Malwa New	\$1.100 to \$1.150 per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1.220 to \$1.250 do.
Malwa Older	\$1.270 to \$1.300 do.
Malwa V. Old.....	\$1.340 to \$1.380 do.
Persian fine quality	\$ 860 to — do.
Persian extra fine	\$ 885 to — do.
Patna New	\$1.185 to — per chest.
Patna Old	\$ — to — do.
Benares New	\$1.187½ to — do.
Benares Old	\$1.187½ to — do.

HEMP.

Messrs. Warner, Barnes & Co., Limited, in their fortnightly report, dated October 31st, state:—The hemp market over the past fortnight has been strong and at times excited, and the large proportion of arrivals found buyers on the basis of \$22 for fair current. The last two or three days have been calmer owing to news of an attempt on the part of bear sellers in London to stem the tide of advancing prices, and values here have reacted a little. To-day a few small parcels could be acquired on the basis of \$21.50 for current or say at exchange 2½ = £41, 10/- f.o.b., but dealers generally show no disposition to sell to arrive on this basis. The advanced prices had caused a rush of ready hemp which we expected—in view of the general reports from provinces of scarcity in arrivals from the interior—could hardly be maintained. This is borne out by receipts which for the past week are only 14,000 bales, and the estimate for present and coming weeks are reduced to respectively 19,000 and 15,000 bales, or say 16,000 average over the three weeks. In view of this shortage in receipts which looks like continuing for some time we can hardly expect the attempt to reduce prices in London to still further under the parity of cost to meet with great success; the more so as Sisal fibre seems to be advancing and the U.S. markets continue firm.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co.'s Piece Goods Trade Report, dated Shanghai, 3rd November, states:—With a shorter interval than usual since our last, and the Race holidays taking up the greater part of it, there is not much to write about. It is not always the case, but on the present occasion there is absolutely nothing to hinder those engaged in this branch of the trade from enjoying the holidays, which after all only occupy the afternoon. There is great expectation that something momentous will occur in connection with the War to-day, the birthday of his Majesty the Emperor of Japan, but up to the time of writing no news has come to hand. The chief centre of attention at present is Newchwang, which according to latest news is likely to close to trade about the 20th inst. Cargo is being hurried up with all despatch, but the fresh supplies are coming forward with disappointing slowness. No doubt the paucity of supplies here, especially in the case of Drills, is accountable for in some of the other lines. Large quantities of Raw Cotton continue to go up, most of which is used for padding clothes. There is rather more doing for

Tientsin both in Piece Goods and Yarn, the prospects being decidedly more cheering, but it is

improbable that there will be any great improvement until the financial arrangements there have undergone a radical change. The death of the aged Viceroy of Nanking, after only a very short time in office, is the most noteworthy event as regards the Yangtsze; this important post is to be filled temporarily by a decidedly progressive Official, at present the Governor of this province, whom all Foreigners would like to see confirmed in the appointment. As Shanghai is the centre of enlightenment and progress in this country, it is only meet that the presiding functionary should be a liberal minded man, with some knowledge and appreciation of the advantages of modern modes and ideas.

Piece Goods.—The market is practically bare of stocks in first-hands, the few transactions reported being almost invariably resales, or goods to arrive. These latter are eagerly waited for and taken away from the steamer. The clearances during the interval have been fairly satisfactory. Although there is not much improvement noticeable in the direction of the River markets. The Corean steamer did not take very much, on account of the scarcity of suitable cargo. There is a good enquiry for Yarns, spinnings wanted for the River markets showing better results. The Bombay market is excited, prices have advanced, and it is said 80,000 bales have been settled for the Spring trade here. Cotton keeps fairly steady owing to the demand from both Newchwang and Japan. Advices from Manchester report a strong market on account of the demand for India. Late delivery is the order of the day and transactions are being considerably curtailed thereby. Cotton remains the same, 5.32d, so far as Mid American is concerned, but Egyptian has advanced to 8.1d. This is somewhat inexplicable in face of some transactions recently put through in goods made with that staple. The export of Plain Cottons to Hongkong and China last month was 35,000,000 yards, and 800 bales of Yarn. The market in the States is very firm, but a small business is still going on nevertheless, of which 3,000 bales Pepperell Drills is reported at Tls. 9.1d., and some Sheetings on the basis of 9s. 2½d. to 9s. 3d. for 3.50 yard and 9s. 11d. to 10s. 1d. for 3.25 yard goods. Great complaints are still being made of the very inadequate forwarding arrangements.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORT.

HONGKONG, 4th November.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—	per bale

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MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

HANKOW, October 30th, 1904.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:

	Per picul.
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 34.50
" Do, seconds	30.00
Buffalo hides, best selected	20.00
Goatskins untanned (chiefly white colour)	
Buffalo Horns (average 3 lbs each)	9.00
White China Grass (Wuchang and/or Poochi)	12.00
White China Grass (Sinchuan and/or Chayu)	11.00
Green China Grass (Szechuan)	12.00
Jute	5.00
White Vegetable Tallow (Kinchow)	10.20
White Vegetable Tallow (Pingchew and/or Macheng)	10.10
White Vegetable Tallow (Mongyu)	—
Green Vegetable Tallow (Kiyu)	10.60
Animal Tallow	9.20
Gallnut (usual shape)	18.00
" Do (Plum) do	19.00
Black Bristles	118.00
Feathers (Grey and/or White Duck)	21.50
" Wild Duck	24.50
Turmeric	3.20
Sesamum Seed	4.10
Sesamum Seed Oil	7.90
Vegetable-Tallow Seed Oil	7.90
Wood Oil	7.90
Tea Oil	8.90

Per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, sailed on 5th November. For London:—70 bales raw silk, 50 bales waste silk, 14 cases silk, 28 packages tea, (Amoy), 4 packages tea (Foochow), 2 cases bird-skins, 11 cases preserves, 43 rolls matting, 20 bales bamboos. For London or Manchester:—150 bales waste silk. Milan:—60 bales raw silk. For Manchester:—200 bales waste silk. For Marseilles:—352 bales raw silk, 100 bales waste silk, 169 packages tea (Foochow), 6 cases cigars, 10 cases hats, 9 cases hair, 2 cases ilang ilang, 2 cases silk. For Barcelona:—7 cases silk. For Lyons:—500 bales raw silk, 5 cases tea.

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 11th November, 1904.—During the past week our market has continued to run dull, and we close with but few transactions of any importance to report.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shaughais have attracted the attention of investors, and fair sales have been booked at \$700, market closing with further buyers at the rate. London is unchanged at £69. Nationals are enquired for at \$39.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have improved to \$640 at which a small sale is reported. North Chinas have advanced to Tls. 924, and Yangtases to \$150, both closing in request. Cantons have sold at \$230 and China Trader's at \$31.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Chinas continue firm with sales and further buyers at \$90. Hongkongs are quiet at \$335.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macaos are steady with probable buyers at \$294. Indo-Chinas have been booked at \$130, \$128 and \$128 cash, \$129 and \$130 December, and at \$133 March, market closing quiet at \$128 cash. China and Manilas have sold at \$234 and \$24. Douglasses are on offer at \$34 and Shells at 24. Star Ferries unchanged.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are again easier with sellers at \$230. Luzons neglected at the nominal quotation of \$8.

MINING.—Unchanged and without business.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have sold at \$220 at which more shares are procurable. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves are steady at \$15. New Amoy Docks are still on offer at \$274. Farham, Boyds have improved to Tls. 182 buyers.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have again been booked at \$148, and Kowloon Lands at \$39. West Points have sold at \$61 and are still on offer at that rate. Hongkong Hotels are firmer with buyers at \$133. Humphrey's Estates are enquired for at \$124 and \$44 for the old and new issues respectively. Shanghai Lands have further improved to Tls. 120 buyers.

CHINA OVERLAND TRADE REPORT.

COTTON MILLS.—Hongkong are wanted at \$11. The Northern stocks are unchanged and without local business.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Provident's have been booked at \$91. Green Island Cements have sold and are in further request at \$32. Dairy Farms have advanced to \$26 buyers. Electrics (old) are wanted at \$15. New Electrics are procurable at \$91. Watsons (old) have been booked at 131 and (new) at \$121.

MEMO.—Humphreys' Estate and Finance Co., Ltd. give notice that a call of \$71 per share on all shares not fully paid up is payable at the offices of the Company on the 2nd January 1905.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shai.	\$125	\$700, buyers L'don, £69.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	\$8	\$39, buyers
B. Shares	\$8	\$39
Foun. Shares	\$1	\$10, buyers
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$640, sales
China Traders	\$25	\$61, buyers
North China	\$25	Tls. 91, buyers
Yangtsze	\$60	\$150, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$250 sales & buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335
China Fire	\$20	\$90, sales & buyers
Steamship Cos.—		
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$291, buyers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$128, sellers
China and Manila	\$50	\$24
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$341, sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$40
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	\$1	\$80
Do. pref. shares	£10	£8. 10.-
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$230, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$8
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18/10d.	\$8, sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$220, sales & sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$115, sales & sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$62	\$271, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 182, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$148, sales & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$80	\$39, sales
West Point Building	\$50	\$80, sales & sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$138, buyers
Humphreys Estate.	\$21	\$12.75, sales & buy.
S'hai Land Ins. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 50	Tls. 120, buyers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 25, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 20
Laou Kung-Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 324
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$11, buyers
Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$200	\$100, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$64
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$12, buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$97, sales
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$26, buyers
Geo. Fenwick & Co.	\$25	\$47, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$32, buyers
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$15, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$9, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$160, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$300
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$255
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$140, buyers
Philippine Tobacco	\$10	\$214, buyers
Trust Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$204
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$94, sellers
S. C. Morning Post	\$25	\$17, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$1.75, buyers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$10, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$7, sellers
United Asbestos	\$8	\$4, sellers
Do.	\$4	\$94, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$180
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$94, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$134, sellers
William Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$124
	\$10	\$11, sellers

VERNON & SMYTH

Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bissell & Co.'s Share Report for the week ending 3rd November states:—Business has been limited during the past week largely due to the October Settlement which took place on the 29th ulto, and the Horse Races which have absorbed the interest of the community during the past three days. The October Settlement went through very satisfactorily, and closing stocks have maintained their values and there is little change in the quotations. The rate on London to-day is 2/7. Banks—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have been sent to Hongkong at \$696 ex 1/1. Marine and Fire Insurance—No business reported. Shipping—Indus opened with sales for October at Tls. 98 and closed with buyers for cash at Tls. 95 with transactions for December at 95, 96, 96, and 97 and 97 for March. Shanghai Tug Boats (Performance shares) have been placed at Tls. 40 and Ordinary shares at 60. The rise in these is due to the good sale made of the Co.'s Tug Boats. Samson, the Docks and Wharves—S. C. Farnham's Dominions has been limited in this stock. Transactions are reported at Tls. 175, October, Tls. 180, and 181 December. Shares required for the squaring up of the Settlement were purchased at Tls. 177, but the market fell again to Tls. 176 and 176 cash on the 31st ult. The last transaction reported is for December at Tls. 181. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves show an upward tendency. The market opened with a transaction for cash at Tls. 160 and for December at Tls. 165 cash. On the 31st 160 was paid for cash and 270 December. Shares continue in demand. Mining—No business reported. Lands—Shanghai Lands have advanced to Tls. 120 at which rate transactions are reported. Industrial—A transaction is reported in Ewo Cottons at Tls. 22, and in Internationals at Tls. 20 and they are wanted at this rate. China Flours have been placed at \$70. Paper and Pulps have been done at Tls. 162. Langkata have remained very steady with sales at Tls. 300 and 307 cash. A transaction was reported on the 2nd at Tls. 310 cash. Stores and Hotels—Weeks have been placed at \$20 and Hall and Holtz at \$31. Astor House Hotels at \$29. Miscellaneous—Horse Bazaar Shares have been placed at Tls. 93. Debentures—Shanghai Land Debentures, 5½ per cent. have been placed at Tls. 98. Shanghai Gas Debs. 5 per cent. at Tls. 90.

EXCHANGE

FRIDAY, 11th November.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/10.
Bank Bills, on demand	1/10.
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/10.
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/10.
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/10.
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/10.
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	234.
Credits, 4 months' sight	237.
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	190.
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	451.
Credits, 60 days' sight	461.
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	138.
Bank, on demand	138.
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer	138.
Bank, on demand	138.
ON SHANGHAI.	
Bank, at sight	714.
Private, 30 days' sight	724.
ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	913.
ON MANILA.	
On demand—Pesos	90.
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	51 p.c. p.m.
ON BATAVIA.	
On demand	112.
ON HAIPHONG.	
On demand	11 p.c. p.m.
ON SAIGON.	
On demand	11 p.c. p.m.
ON BANGKOK.	
On demand	621.
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.85
GOLD LEAF, 130 fine, per tael	\$56.0
GOLD SILVER, per oz.	26.

FREIGHTS

From Hankow per Conference Steamer—To London and Northern Continental ports (via Shanghai). 40/- plus River Freight. To Genoa, Marseilles or Havre (via Shanghai). Tea and General Cargo 41/6 plus River Freight. To New York (overland). Tea, C. 11½ cents per lb. gross plus River Freight. To New York (via Suez). Tea and General Cargo 35/- per ton. To Shanghai. Tea and General Cargo, Taelis 1.00 per ton weight or measurement.

SHIPPING.**ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.****November—ARRIVALS.**

4. Baron Eldon, British str., from Moji.
 4. Binh Thuan, French str., from Saigon.
 4. Bourbon, French str., from Soigon.
 4. Brigavia, German str., from Amoy.
 4. Chusan, British str., from Bombay.
 4. Edendale, British str., from Saigon.
 4. Fallodon Hall, British str., from Barry.
 4. Ischia, Italian str., from Bangkok.
 4. Johanne, German str., from Bangkok.
 4. Kwongsang, British str., from Canton.
 4. M. Rickmers, German str., from Bangkok.
 4. Paklat, German str., from Bangkok.
 4. Shantung, German str., from Moji.
 4. Siberia, Amer. str., from San Francisco.
 4. Tean, British str., from Manila.
 4. Ulysses, British str., from Moji.
 5. Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
 5. Lanahan, German str., from Cardiff.
 5. Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 5. Salfordia, British str., from Cardiff.
 5. Triumph, German str., from Coast Ports.
 5. Tsintau, German str., from Bangkok.
 5. Tyr, Norwegian str., from Canton.
 6. Elax, British str., from Palembang.
 6. Empereur Meulek, Fr. bk., from N. York.
 6. Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 6. Helena, U.S. gunboat, from Canton.
 6. Machaon, British str., from Shanghai.
 6. Simoom, British str., from Cardiff.
 6. Tjimahi, Dutch str., from Batavia.
 7. Ascot, British str., from Durban.
 7. Diu, Portuguese gunboat, from Macao.
 7. Glenturret, British str., from London.
 7. Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
 7. Halaban, Dutch str., from Amoy.
 7. Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
 7. Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 7. Legaspi, American str., from Manila.
 7. Manica, British str., from London.
 7. Pekin, British str., from London.
 7. Prinzess Alice, Ger. str., from Yokohama.
 7. Rinaldo, British sloop, from Shanghai.
 7. Setun, Norwegian str., from Kobe.
 7. Wosang, British str., from Tientsin.
 7. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 8. Algerine, British sloop, from Shanghai.
 8. Amara, British str., from Saigon.
 8. Ardandearg, British str., from Penarth.
 8. Breconshire, Brit. str., from Philadelphia.
 8. Ganges, British str., from Cardiff.
 8. Glenfalloch, British str., from Straits.
 8. Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 8. Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
 8. K. of St. George, British str., from Amoy.
 8. Mausang, British str., from Sandakan.
 8. Zafiro, British str., from Manila.
 9. Crusader, British str., from Moji.
 9. Feiching, Chinese str., from Swatow.
 9. Kiukiang, British str., from Chinkiang.
 9. Manila, British str., from Yokohama.
 9. Poschan, German str., from Cardiff.
 9. Preussen, German str., from Bremen.
 9. Wongkoi, German str., from Bangkok.
 9. Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
 10. Britomart, British g.-bt., from Chemulpo.
 10. Indravelli, British str., from New York.
 10. J. Niederichsen, Ger. str., from Haiphong.
 10. Luchs, German gunboat, from Amoy.
 10. M. Struve, German str., from Tamsui.

November—DEPARTURES.

4. Chiyuen, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 4. Chwnshan, British str., for Hongay.
 4. Dardanus, British str., for Shanghai.
 4. Fronde, French torp.-boat, for Haiphong.
 4. Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
 4. Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
 4. Hinsang, British str., for Sourabaya.
 4. Javeline, French torp.-boat, for Haiphong.
 4. Kansu, British str., for Chefoo.
 4. Kirklee, British str., for Sourabaya.
 4. Loongsaeng, British str., for Manila.
 4. Montcalm, French cruiser, for Haiphong.
 4. Monmouthshire, Brit. str., for Shanghai.
 4. Mousquet, French torp.-bt., for Haiphong.
 4. Pistolet, French torp.-boat, for Haiphong.
 4. Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 5. Benmohr, British str., for Nagasaki.
 5. Chusan, British str., for Shanghai.
 5. Coromandel, British str., for Europe.
 5. Gaelic, British str., for San Francisco.
 5. Rubi, British str., for Manila.
 5. U. S. Dollar, British str., for Moji.
 6. Andree Rickmers, Ger. str., for Bangkok.

6. Binh Thuan, French str., for Yokohama.
 6. Brisgavia, German str., for Hamburg.
 6. Frithjof, Norwegian str., for Swatow.
 6. Kwongsang, British str., for Swatow.
 6. Machew, German str., for Swatow.
 6. Pitsanulok, German str., for Bangkok.
 6. Sheik, British str., for Saigon.
 6. Sofala, British str., for Saigon.
 6. Tyr, Norwegian str., for Hongay.
 6. Ulysses, British str., for London.
 7. Edendale, British str., for Moji.
 7. Fearless, British gunboat, for Singapore.
 8. Belgian King, British str., for Kobe.
 8. Elax, British str., for Shanghai.
 8. Gregory Apcar, British str., for Calcutta.
 8. Haimun, British str., for Coast Ports.
 8. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 8. Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
 8. Mathilde, German str., for Swatow.
 8. Petrarch, German str., for Mauritius.
 8. Phranang, German str., for Swatow.
 8. Shahzada, British str., for Newchwang.
 8. Tean, British str., for Manila.
 8. Telena, British str., for Singapore.
 8. Vermont, British str., for Newcastle.
 8. Wosang, British str., for Canton.
 9. Amara, British str., for Kobe.
 9. Bourbon, French str., for Saigon.
 9. Breconshire, British str., for Chefoo.
 9. D "wen", British str., for Saigon.
 9. Gauges, British str., for Weihaiwei.
 9. Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 9. Johanne, German str., for Hoihow.
 9. Manica, British str., for Nagasaki.
 9. Merced s, British str., for Weihaiwei.
 9. Prinzess Alice, German str., for Europe.
 9. Shantung, British str., for Samarang.
 9. Triumph, German str., for Coast Ports.
 10. Benvenue, British str., for Calcutta.
 10. Fooshing, British str., for Bangkok.
 10. Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
 10. Hertha, German cruiser, for Singapore.
 10. Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
 10. Kiukiang, British str., for Canton.
 10. Knight of St. George, Brit. str., for Manila.
 10. Melita, French str., for Chemulpo.
 10. Paklat, German str., for Bangkok.
 10. Preussen, German str., for Shanghai.
 10. Setun, Norwegian str., for Kobe.
 10. Tsinau, German str., for Bangkok.
 10. Woosung, British str., for Canton.

PASSENGER LIST.**ARRIVED.**

Per *Chusay*, for Hongkong, from London. Mr. and Mrs. W. Hutchinson, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Drew and infant, Misses Cruckshank and Briscoe, Mrs. Daly, Rev. R. Kelly, Mrs. Bentinck and 2 children, Mr. W. A. Crake, Miss H. J. L. Crawford, Lieut. Hon. M. R. Best, Messrs. S. D. Spicer, W. O. Hozier, F. E. C. Tufnell, and Miss M. E. Ormiston; from Gibraltar, Capt. Leiters Xaviers; from Mar-selles, Mr. L. Guibert; from Brindisi, Mr. H. E. Morrow; from Bombay, Mr. Masood Ahmed and Mrs. Chiyo; from Colombo, Mr. F. G. Cruck-shank; from Singapore, Messrs. L. H. Whitley, H. Crombie, F. Wandres, and Capt. W. J. Sheldrake; for Shanghai, from Shanghai, Mrs. Moir, Mrs. Bayes Kup, Mr. F. H. Forbes, Miss Hannah Line, Mrs. Charlton, Messrs. C. D. Pearson and A. G. Hickmott; from Marseilles, Messrs. A. H. G. Gilmore, A. M. Cannon, René Delastre, Carl Haessler, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Warmsley, Mrs. H. D. Summers and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Lintilhac, Mons. le Rev. Henri, Paul de Gelves, Leon Ferrand, Charles Hemet, Gabriel Mangay, Pierre Grumbert, and Mon. Etienne Tsu; from Bombay, Mr. Michel Spiteri; from Singapore, Messrs. A. W. Prior and Tensen; for Yokohama, from London, Miss P. Bridges, Mrs. and Miss Findlay and infant; from Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Harms, Messrs. A. E. Cargill and Walrond.

Per *Siberia*, from San Francisco, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Case and son, Mrs. O. H. Hicks, Mrs. S. C. Coy, Mrs. L. C. Logan and two daughters, Mrs. C. W. Vance, Mrs. A. M. Glenn, Mrs. G. F. Lapeyer, Mrs. H. W. Nathau and son, Miss Polly Lawrence, Miss M. Michel, Messrs. T. Hodgson, P. J. Kearney, S. R. Lewis, Geo. Lorenz, Arthur P. Moran, Geo. S. Wilson, E. C. Ray, T. Takanuchi, Sidney Smith, B. de Hasanas, O. C. Brock, H. M. S. H. Esmai, Rao Nabekura, W. J. Sweasey, Powers and wife, G. F. Lapeyer, E. C. Moses, W. W. Armstrong, L. Knox, R. H. McMullin, Gustave Schwerdt and S. Lenz.

DEPARTED.

Per *Coromandel*, from Hongkong, for Singa-pore, Messrs. Francisco Singian, M. O. Omilio, W. T. Stebbing, H. Blok Wyndham, Y. T. Vonck, Jr., and Dr. S. C. Vining, Tom Bomby, Messrs. J. G. Hussain, D. J. At. Ross, R. M. Engineer, A. E. Davis, S. B. Bartholomew, W. Farquharson, and Mrs. Biloal Hormuzjee; for Marseilles, Messrs. B. F. German, Sydney Malkin, and Sister M. Damien; for London, Messrs. J. S. Cowper, E. Dingle, R. N. Alfred Horsell, Major G. A. French, A. S. C. and Dr. F. O. Stedman; from Yokohama, for Marseilles, Mr. Carzamion; for London, Messrs. F. J. Barry and F. W. Hill; from Kobe, for London, Miss Nield, from Shanghai, for Colombo, Mr. G. K. Panoff, for Bombay, Messrs. S. Abraham and D. M. Bharncha; for Port Said, Mr. G. Danton; for Marseilles, Mrs. R. S. Huttoheon, Messrs. L. Abaronoff and H. Jaeger; for London, Messrs. H. R. H. Thomas, C. G. King, W. S. Bidwell, Lieut. J. B. K. Birch, R. N. and Mrs. Simpson.

Per *Prinzess Alice*, for Hamburg, Messrs. Richard Abel, J. A. Pereira d'Almeida, M. A. Ribeiro d'Almeida, J. Anlauf, Anissioff, M. Auboynean, E. Backhouse, Bamberg, Schwestern Barbara, R. Behn, Mrs. R. Bent, Mrs. Booth and child, Mr. and Mrs. Borkowitz, Messrs. E. Bwditsch, Taylor Brown, Mr. and Miss Buck-waldy, Messrs. C. R. Burkhill, von Cosel, Mr. and Mrs. F. Danckwert and children, Messrs. Paul Danner, John Duncan, Miss Dwyer, Messrs. Eggebrecht, Edler, Mr. and Mrs. Ferris, Mrs. Fyson, Mr. and Mrs. Gallois and children, Messrs. F. Geor, Michel George, Grohn, P. Grammel, Mr. and Mrs. Grun, Mr. A. Gugel-mann, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. L. Hasseloop and children, Mr. and Mrs. Haimovitch, Messrs. L. Hamada, H. P. Hansen, Mr. and Mrs. Harris, Mr. T. H. Hasche, Mr. and Mrs. Hartmann, Capt. C. H. Haswell, Miss Hawker, Mr. and Mrs. E. Heck, Mr. R. G. Heckford, Dr. Herrmann, Messrs. W. Himy, Hinrichs, F. Hohnke, Miss Hoffmann, Capt. Hoffmann, Mr. and Mrs. H. des Amorie v. d. Hoeven, Mr. Ida, Mrs. Ipland and daughter, Mr. Irmer, Capt. Ivanoff, Mr. Junker, Mr. and Mrs. Juan, Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Johnson, Mr. von Kapp, Mr. and Mrs. D. H. van de Kamer and children, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Keyes, Messrs. Kirbach, F. W. Koffyberg, M. Laengerer, J. B. Leibson, Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Lapyre, Mrs. H. G. Leonard, Messrs. S. W. Letvin ff, Levzow, H. F. Lucas, Maguis, A. Mayrhofer, Mrs. E. Mathews, Mr. and Mrs. Melegari, Mrs. J. Mendelson and daughter, Mr. Meyer, Mrs. Molland and children, Consul E. Morgan, Mr. A. E. Moses, Admiral Molon-sovita, Mrs. Much, Mr. von Mutius, Mrs. Muy-skens, Mrs. H. W. Nathan and child, Mr. and Mrs. Nettleship, Mr. Newborn, Mrs. Nesie Nickels, Messrs. Odershaw, H. G. Onamurs, E. Oltmann, Mrs. van Os and children, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Oswald and children, Mr. A. von Osten, Dr. Popowitch, Dr. and Mrs. Behlen, Mr. E. S. Rendall, Miss E. Ritsos, Mr. Robert-son, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Rogge, Misses Malchen, Marie-Luise, and Eudi Rogge, Messrs. H. von Roll, J. Rosenfeld, Rostoff, Dr. Bykoff, Dr. and Mrs. Salonica, Mrs. A. Sarbar, Mrs. R. Schmid and children, Mr. v. Schreiber, Dr. S. Shoestoff, Miss B. Simpson, Messrs. S. F. Smith and S. Somekh, Miss Suzuki, Dr. and Mrs. Sweasey Power, Miss Elsa Symann, Mr. R. Takagi, Mrs. Tretiacooff and son, Mr. W. J. Tyack, Mrs. H. O. Vincente and children, Mr. and Mrs. Vonck, Messrs. A. G. Verwaven and Watz, Misses Wells, Mary Wells and children, Miss White, Mr. Zea, Mrs. Siegenmeyer, Mr. and Mrs. E. Zobel, and Dr. R. Zoepfli.

Per *Preussen*, for Shanghai, Mrs. Hayen and 2 children, Mr. and Miss McIlroy, Messrs. A. Wortmann, C. E. Ellis, Main, W. S. King, F. M. Remedios, Jones, Power, A. Razak, and Capt. Freumann, for Nagasaki, Messrs. T. Tsukamoto, Ohfuko, S. Yegami, Jascio, Nagawa, Kawaguchi, Nagano, Nishigori, Tsuruta, and Shinohara and family; for Kobe, Mr. and Mrs. T. Hodsumi, Messrs. C. G. Crane, Y. Nakamura, Ohnaga, and Matsumoto; for Yokohama, Messrs. H. Jaedicke and C. H. Thorpe.

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